



Calf on rampage at slaughterhouse

AMMAN (J.T.) — A frenzied calf caused chaos among workers at Amman's municipal slaughterhouse when it escaped from its pen and broke through the gate and attacked people. The calf, which was being prepared for slaughter, was shot and killed by police. The incident occurred on Friday morning. The calf was brought to the slaughterhouse from a private farm. It was kept in a pen until it was ready to be slaughtered. However, it managed to escape and caused a panic among the workers. The calf was eventually shot and killed by police. The incident has caused some concern among the public, but officials say it was a rare occurrence.

Former model split with Danish crown prince

COPENHAGEN (AP) — A former model and Danish crown princess, Mette-Marie, has split with her husband, Crown Prince Frederik. The couple, who were married in 1994, announced their separation on Friday. Mette-Marie, 32, is a former model and has been married to the crown prince for two years. They have two children. The couple's separation comes after a period of speculation about their relationship. Mette-Marie is expected to remain in Denmark, while the crown prince will move to Sweden. The couple's separation is a surprise to many, as they were considered a perfect couple.

Beats say no to reunion further single

BEIRUT (AP) — Two Palestinian groups said Friday that they have been unable to carry out any anti-Israeli attacks since March because of "repression" by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian police in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Spokesmen for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad told the London-based daily Al Sharq Al Awsat that the Palestinian security services had thwarted a number of their planned operations. "We have tried to carry out suicide operations but we have failed because of repression of our militants and members in the Gaza Strip and West Bank," said Islamic Jihad Secretary General Ramadan Abdallah Shallah. Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh told the Arabic newspaper that his organization had not carried out any attacks on Israelis in recent months for the same reason.

### Woman expelled from Israeli-held zone

TYRE (AFP) — The South Lebanon Army (SLA), Israel's ally, Friday expelled a 65-year-old woman from the occupied border zone of southern Lebanon without giving her a reason, security sources said. SLA militiamen in two military jeeps accompanied by a taxi entered Khadijah Mohammad Bayyad's olive grove in the village of Tair Harfa, in the west of the Israeli-occupied border area at midday, the sources said. They told the Shiite Muslim she was persona non-grata in the zone and ordered her to get in the taxi and leave the area, they said. "I began to cry and tell them that I had my house, my lands and my properties, but they refused to listen," she said. "They did not even accept to tell me why they were expelling me." Ms. Bayyad, who sought refuge at her son's house in the southern port city of Tyre, said the militia had refused 10 days ago to grant permits to her two daughters, Joumana, 27, and Linda, 24, to return to the border zone after a visit to Tyre.

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### King receives call from UAE leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received a phone call from Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), who assured the King of his good health. The UAE leader recently underwent surgery at the Mayo Clinic in the U.S. The King and Sheikh Zayed reviewed the latest developments in the region.

### Israelis shoot Palestinian in Gaza

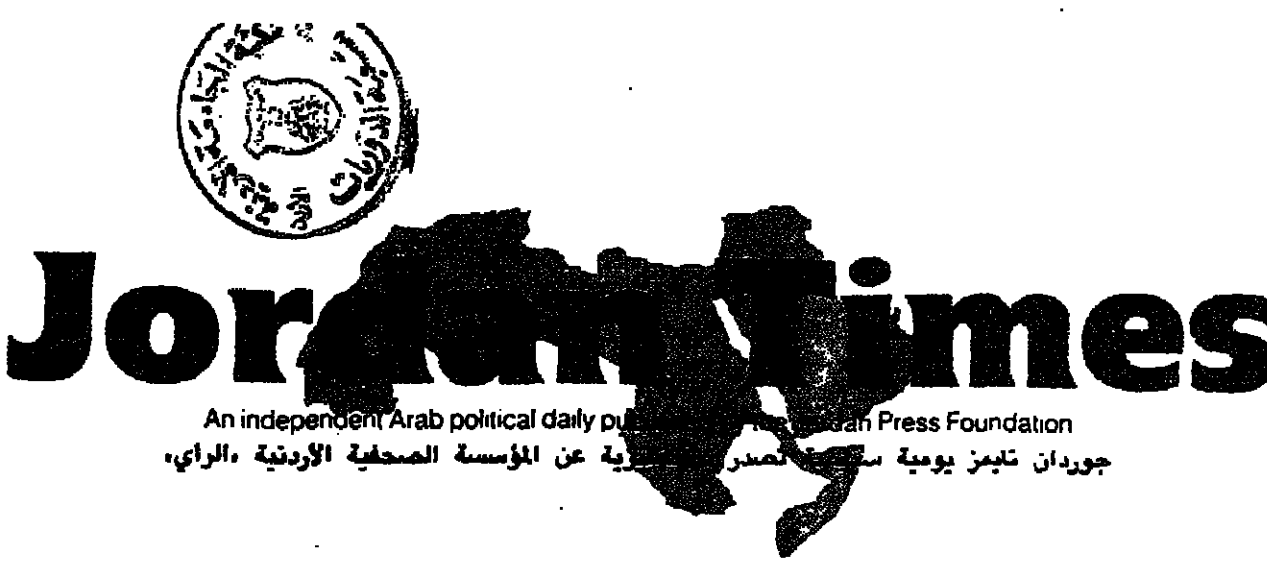
GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian man Friday near a Jewish settlement of Gush Katif in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian police and hospital officials said. A spokesman at the Nasser Hospital said the man was shot in the leg with live ammunition. Palestinian police said the incident occurred when Israeli soldiers stopped two Palestinian men trying to cross through an army checkpoint near Gush Katif to reach a nearby beach. "The Israelis started slapping and beating one of the men and when the second man tried to intervene, the soldiers shot him in the leg," said a senior Palestinian officer serving with the joint Israeli-Palestinian military liaison committee. "We protested the shooting to the Israelis and the joint liaison committee has set up an inquiry into the incident," the officer told AFP. An Israeli army spokesman said the man was shot when he tried to seize one of the Israelis' weapons.

### Arafat, Netanyahu to visit Spain

MADRID (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have separately accepted invitations to visit Spain to mark the fifth anniversary of the Madrid conference which launched the Middle East peace process, a Spanish official said Friday. However, the two men will arrive on different dates. Mr. Arafat is expected in Madrid on Oct. 30 or 31, while Mr. Netanyahu will probably arrive at the start of November, foreign ministry spokesman Innocencio Arias said. The double invitation was made by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, Mr. Arias said. As well as a symbolic gesture, Spain wants to use the anniversary of the 1991 conference which launched peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, to stress the need for the two sides to continue dialogue.

### U.S. to evacuate more refugees from Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Washington is on the verge of evacuating 700 Kurdish refugees from northern Iraq to the United States through Turkey, Turkish sources said Friday. The operation to evacuate mainly former employees of humanitarian organizations and their families could start as soon as Saturday, they added. The refugees will be transported across the Iraq-Turkey border to Diyarbakir, from where they will be flown to the Pacific island of Guam where the United States has a military base. "The plan exists but its date has not yet been finalized," a source close to security services said from Diyarbakir in southeastern Turkey. The United States last month evacuated from northern Iraq nearly 2,000 local people, mainly Kurds working for U.S. agencies and their families, who feared persecution by Baghdad after an Iraqi Kurdish faction backed by President Saddam Hussein seized the main city of Erbil.



AMMAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1996, JUMADA II, 6, 1417

## Taba talks adjourned without Hebron deal

### Palestinians say differences among Israeli negotiators block agreement

### Ross optimistic of accord in weekend meetings before negotiations resume

TABA (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Friday adjourned until Monday talks on implementing a long-delayed Israeli troop redeployment in the West Bank town of Hebron, negotiators said. The sides had seemed close to agreement during U.S.-brokered talks in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba late on Thursday but encountered a setback. Palestinian sources said, "We have agreed to continue meetings on Monday alternating between Eilat and Taba. On the weekend, subcommittees will be meeting." Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour told reporters. "We have agreed to continue talks not only on Hebron but also on other outstanding issues. We have not reached a framework of agreement over Hebron because of the internal disputes in the Israeli delegation yesterday," Mr. Asfour said. Israeli negotiating team spokesman Moshe Fogel had earlier denied Palestinian claims of disputes between political and military representatives on the Israeli delegation. "It's unfortunate that the Palestinians are involved in disinformation of that type," Mr. Fogel told Reuters. U.S. envoy Dennis Ross, mediating the talks, told reporters in Taba differences had been narrowed but each side had "concerns." He vowed to work until an agreement was in hand. "We'll be back down here on Monday and work will continue until we reach agreement," Mr. Ross said. The signature of an agreement in principle (on Hebron) is near and should be achieved in the coming days," Israeli chief negotiator Dan Shomron told journalists after three days of sessions. Mr. Asfour expressed dismay that an agreement could not be finalized. "Everything is close, but when will we sign?" he said. "With the Israeli side, from our experience you can't know until the signing itself." Mr. Ross said discussions would continue Saturday night and Sunday, then the full delegations would return on Monday for talks in Taba and Eilat. "We will continue these discussions until we reach agreement as soon as possible on Hebron, that is the first priority, but we will discuss other issues as well," he said. "We had good and productive discussions, we have narrowed differences and progress has been made, but there is still work to be done and we have not overcome all the differences," he said. The difficult talks have focused on Israeli demands that the Oslo blueprint for withdrawal of its army from 80 per cent of Hebron be amended to provide greater security guarantees for 400 Jewish settlers living amid the city's 120,000 Palestinians. Palestinians say Israel's security concerns are baseless since the Oslo agreement would grant it control over one-fifth of the city even though Jews make up less than one per cent of the population. They have, however, offered a strengthening of security guarantees already in the accord. The Palestinians also want Hebron resolved in a package deal involving implementation of other issues left outstanding from Oslo.

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## Djerejian reportedly in renewed bid to narrow Syrian-Israeli gaps

### Secret Baker mission of 1995 found U.S. could bridge differences — former envoy

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian was reported on Friday to have renewed an effort to narrow gaps between Syria and Israel and relaunch their peace negotiations which are stalled since February this year. According to reports in the Israeli media, Mr. Djerejian, who ended a Middle East visit in Amman on Thursday, made a quick trip to the King Hussein Bridge and delivered a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The message was given to Netanyahu advisor Dore Gold, according to the reports. The message, Israeli television said, was in reply to one that Mr. Djerejian, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel and Syria and an ex-consul in Jordan, had carried from Mr. Netanyahu to President Assad. Mr. Djerejian visited Israel and Syria early this week before arriving in Amman on Tuesday. In remarks in Amman, he said the tour was of a private nature. The Syrian reply to Mr. Netanyahu, according to the Israeli media reports, was positive. Israel's Jerusalem Post quoted senior Israeli officials as saying the negotiations with Syria would resume following U.S. presidential elections on Nov. 5. In an interview with the Jordan Times early Thursday, Mr. Djerejian indicated that President Assad had reaffirmed that he was ready for resumed negotiations with Israel as long as the basic goal, that the Golan would be returned to Syria, is established. "The real issue in Syria is very basic," said Mr. Djerejian. As President Assad has stated "both privately and publicly...if there has to be peace it has to be land for peace. This is an essential requirement...the fundamental requirement is the return of the Golan." Once this is established and accepted by Israel, then "everything else...meeting the mutual needs of both sides...is totally negotiable," Mr. Djerejian said. By the same token, he said, Mr. Netanyahu's "Lebanon-first" option was a non-starter and said he supported Mr. Assad's call for "Lebanon first and Syria first." In the interview, Mr. Djerejian studiously kept away from giving any clue to his new mission, but he had made no secret that he had visited Israel and Syria before arriving in Jordan on Tuesday. Mr. Djerejian confirmed that he and former Secretary of State James Baker were involved in a mediation effort between Israel and Syria in early 1995 and

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Israelis and Palestinians march together down the main street leading into Ramallah while a Palestinian policeman looks at the banner reading, 'Let's make the Peace Process Work'. Some 50 Israelis from the left-wing Meretz Party took part in the march in the area where several weeks ago Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers were involved in violent gunbattles (Reuters photo)

## KDP launches own offensive to reduce PUK pressure on Erbil

DEGALA, Iraq (Agencies) — Fighters of the Baghdad-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) tried to break a partial siege around the city of Erbil on Friday, ahead of renewed U.S. talks to end a bitter Kurdish conflict. Witnesses said KDP forces, firing Katyusha rockets and artillery shells, advanced to within two kilometres of the town of Koy Sanjak, held by the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The KDP said it would halt its push once it had taken Koy Sanjak and given Erbil a breather from days of PUK pressure. "Today we want to enter Koy Sanjak, continue to Heibet Sultan mountain and then stop," local KDP commander Arif Tayfur told Reuters in the town of Degala, near the frontline. The PUK, led by Jalal Talabani, last week closed in on Erbil from several points, the closest being Degala 30 kilometres to the south. The status of Erbil, a city of 800,000 people and a symbol of Kurdish autonomy, hopes, could be key to peace negotiations. KDP leader Massoud Barzani is due to meet Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, next week for talks on ending the Kurdish feud. The meeting is likely to be in Turkey. "Ambassador Robert Pelletreau will be travelling to the region to meet Mr. Barzani next week," the KDP said in a statement. Mr. Barzani on Thursday raised the stakes of the peace bid by threatening to call for Baghdad's help against Mr. Talabani's men. The KDP strongman allied himself with Iraqi forces in August to capture Erbil from the PUK, prompting U.S. missile attacks on military targets in southern Iraq in reprisal. Washington on Thursday urged the two warring groups to halt the fighting straight away. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said U.S. officials had made the "clear point" that the KDP and the PUK need to move very quickly toward an immediate ceasefire "in a meeting with a KDP delegation in Washington." Fighting which erupted between the two groups in August has seriously weakened Washington's position in northern Iraq, forcing the evacuation of U.S. aid, military and intelligence operations and threatening to draw in Iraq and Iran. The KDP sought U.S. assurances that a ceasefire would hold. "Our question was what assurances we have that tomorrow we will have a ceasefire and it will not be violated," KDP spokesman Hoshiyar Zebari said in Washington. Washington brokered two meetings in Ireland last year between the Kurdish factions but no solid settlement was reached. The Kurds broke from Baghdad at the end of the 1991 Gulf war and set up a power-sharing parliament in Erbil which collapsed last year in an outbreak of fighting. That dispute was over control of Erbil and the distribution of revenues from the KDP's makeshift oil trade across the Turkish border. Allegations of Iraqi and Iranian involvement have aggravated the feud this time around, Tehran and Mr. Talabani deny KDP charges that Iran is aiding the PUK with men and munitions. On Friday, KDP guerrillas cheered and waved yellow and black flags.

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## Masood demands Taleban leave Kabul

QARABAGH, Afghanistan (R) — Ousted government military commander Ahmad Shah Masood on Friday told Taleban fighters to quit Kabul, and backed his words with a hail of mortar and rocket fire north of the Afghan capital. "We want the Taleban to evacuate Kabul," he told Reuters in the town of Jabal os-Siraj. "A limited international force under U.N. supervision should control Kabul and pave the way for all-party talks on a broad-based government." Mr. Masood, who won renown as a guerrilla leader for his exploits against occupying Soviet troops in the 1980s, made clear the alternative would be war. As he spoke, mortar bombs and rockets from forces led by Mr. Masood rained down on positions around the key Bagram junction north of Kabul held by the purist Islamic

(Continued on page 7)

## Ousted Lebed vows to fight back

MOSCOW (AFP) — The knives were still out Friday for Alexander Lebed, Russia's ousted security chief, as parliament voted to call for an enquiry into accusations that he was trying to mount a coup, while the Kremlin moved to strip him of his final powers. But Mr. Lebed himself, sacked by President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday as national security adviser, vowed to bounce back, saying he would continue to strive for power through democratic means. Meanwhile, the Russian executive, though visibly glowing in triumph at having got rid of its bete noir, was mulling whether Mr. Lebed, with his overt presidential ambitions and huge popularity, could be more dangerous to the government outside the Kremlin than he was inside. On Friday, the presidency moved to oust Mr. Lebed completely from all his positions of responsibility, saying the controversial Chechen portfolio would soon be removed from his remit. But the Kremlin stressed that it would continue along the path of peace which Mr. Lebed carved in Chechnya, signing a peace agreement with separatist rebels on Aug. 31. "You can now say that the federal powers will carefully follow the course of solving the conflict in Chechnya via peaceful means," presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said. Mr. Lebed was meanwhile fending off criticism from the lower house of parliament, where Russian deputies, largely hostile to his Chechen peace initiatives, approved during a first reading a text calling for the prosecutor general to examine the allegations that he was trying to mount a coup. The draft resolution, which must be further debated before a second vote, calls for prosecutors to examine "the actions of officials which could present a threat to national security and result in a destabilisation of the Russian state." Ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy amplified the draft resolution. "Military officials should stick to military affairs, civilian officials to civilian affairs," he said, urging an amendment to the law "to exclude military figures from presidential, parliamentary and gubernatorial elections." "Lebed has fooled us on everything," said nationalist deputy Stanislav Govorukhin. "He said one thing and did the opposite the next day. He made the president dance and led him to his heart attack, and no one said a word." Mr. Lebed for his part dismissed Friday his intention to fight his corner, dismissing Mr. Yeltsin as "an elderly and sick person" who "bears the main responsibility" for the current crisis in Russia. He said he would be going to the theatre in the evening "to watch Ivan the Terrible, and learn how to run the state properly," WTN television reported. "But I have to think about how of course it will be democratic," he added of his own ambition to rise to power in Russia, in another veiled dismissal of the coup allegations issued by Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov. Mr. Kulikov's accusations amounted to the latest in a bitter power struggle between the abrasive Lebed, who has made no secret of his intention to succeed, and his growing number of enemies and rivals in the corridors of power. During his brief spell in the Kremlin, Mr. Lebed isolated himself by alienating his colleagues with his contemptuous style and maverick comments on topics far removed from his own security beat. As he signed the decree dismissing him on Thursday, Mr. Yeltsin also singled out Mr. Lebed's insubordination and his showy electioneering as unacceptable behaviour on the part of a member of the executive team. "The elections are only in 2000 and already a pre-election campaign is starting. I cannot tolerate this situation and am obliged to remove General Lebed from his duties," Mr. Yeltsin said. Share prices in Moscow fell by up to four per cent across the board on Friday after foreign investors withdrew from the market in response to Mr. Lebed's dismissal. But the ruble was steady at 5,434 to the dollar, analysts said. The price of shares in the giant gas company Gazprom fell by 2.8 per cent.



## U.S. willing to supply arms to Lebanon but not to lift travel ban

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Thursday the United States is willing to supply the Lebanese army with military equipment but had no short-term plans to lift a ban on travel by U.S. citizens to Lebanon.

"The United States wants to cooperate with the government of Lebanon in reinforcing its armed forces and making available, where appropriate, excess defence articles," he told reporters at the State Department with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri at his side.

"We're anxious to assist the government of Lebanon in this respect," Mr. Christopher said.

Earlier, in one of several speaking engagements throughout the day, Mr. Hariri said his government was looking to Washington for helicopters, armoured personnel carriers, communications equipment and aircraft. Earlier this year, the United States sold 16 helicopters to Lebanon and has been providing with U.S. officials described as "limited nonlethal equipment" from time to time.

Mr. Christopher declined to talk about specific military items that might be transferred to Lebanon from U.S.

stocks. But Mr. Hariri was expected to raise the issue again when he was to President Bill Clinton at the White House on Friday.

As for Mr. Hariri's push to get Washington to lift the travel ban, Mr. Christopher said: "We would like to remove that travel ban just as soon as security conditions permit."

"We have the matter under regular periodic review (and) are very hopeful that it can be removed at some time in the future, but it really depends on a very careful appraisal of the security situation because above all things, we need to be prudent in this matter," he added.

The United States, which saw a series of American citizens kidnapped in Lebanon in the 1980s, insists the travel ban is purely for security reasons.

But Lebanese officials say their country is now much safer than many countries Americans are not barred from visiting. They allege the ban is politically motivated to force Lebanon into a peace agreement with Israel.

Mr. Hariri, speaking at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said he did not understand why the ban could not be lifted. He would tell Mr. Clinton Amer-

ican security could be assured in Lebanon, where many people from other countries were already coming to invest, he said.

Mr. Hariri ruled out a separate peace between Lebanon and Israel.

"Arab countries are not optimistic about the future of the peace process" because of the hardline positions of Israel's new Likud government, Mr. Hariri said, adding: "We want to live in peace with Israel and we are ready to work very hard to achieve that goal... Israel has to decide."

Mr. Hariri said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad also wanted to proceed with negotiations but Israel must accept trading land for peace, something the Likud government has opposed.

Before their State Department talks, Mr. Christopher said he and Mr. Hariri would discuss efforts to rebuild Lebanon after its civil war — something the prime minister said was on the top of his agenda with the United States.

A main aim of Mr. Hariri's trip is to convince Americans that Lebanon is on the rebound, with its currency and inflation stabilised, electricity available 24 hours a day and plans underway for a new airport and roads.



GAZA PRAYERS: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat prays at Al Abass mosque in the Gaza Strip on Friday (Reuters photo)

## Kabulis stay at home to avoid Taliban-forced Friday prayers

KABUL (AFP) — The Afghan capital Kabul, captured three weeks ago by the Taliban militia, was calm and relaxed Friday as residents stayed at home apparently to avoid enforced worship.

Kabulis, who used to throng the streets on the only non-working day of the week, now cloister themselves in their houses during the prayer time on Fridays, fearing they will be forced into a mosque by Taliban fighters if they venture out, locals say.

"Kabulis are very independent and like to make their own decisions in life, so even many devout Muslims are praying at home to avoid being ordered to attend a Taliban-run mosque," a shopkeeper who refused to be identified said.

Most shops remained closed and only a limited crowd, many of them Taliban fighters and officials, turned up for midday prayers at the city's main Pul-e-Khishi Mosque.

The small crowd contrasted with the usual attendance before the Taliban seized Kabul and also with the massive turnout two weeks ago when militiamen armed with guns and sticks forced passers-by into the building to worship.

Few militiamen were in evidence near the mosque encouraging people to offer prayers on Friday, and there was no sign of the armed guards who for the past two Fridays had

patrolled rooftops and walls around the mosque with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades.

Many Kabul citizens said the atmosphere on the streets of the largely ruined city was becoming less tense as locals slowly adapted to Taliban rule. "Things are far more relaxed here than they were immediately after the Taliban came, although most people are still not happy," fruitseller Mohammad Noor told AFP.

"Things are still uncertain and we are still very worried about the future, but we are beginning to come to terms with the change in government which came as a shock to many of us," he said.

The Taliban stormed into Kabul on Sept. 27, sending the government of ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani fleeing northwards.

The religious warriors immediately set up a new ruling council and began announcing a series of decrees governing how Kabulis should act and appear under the Taliban brand of strict Islamic law.

The fundamentalist zealots barred thousands of women from working and girls from going to school — which have in any event been temporarily shut — ordered men to grow beards, closed the national television station, stopped the use of Western dress and banned photography of people here.

Thousands of locals

began fleeing as the Taliban advanced on the city after a stunning three-week sweep of provinces east of here, and the exodus has continued since the Taliban arrived.

A schoolteacher, who has been out of work since the Taliban shut schools here when they took the city, said Friday he was preparing to go to Pakistan to escape what he described as the "intolerable social and cultural oppression of Taliban rule."

But others, mainly traders and shopkeepers, said they were relieved rocket attacks, crime and banditry had been eradicated in the city and goods were coming in from neighbouring Pakistan, more regularly and more cheaply since the Taliban arrived. "At least we no longer have to fear being killed by a shell or being kidnapped for ransom by renegade government commanders," trader Sharif said. The Taliban, who now control about two-thirds of Afghanistan — which has been torn apart by almost constant war since the Soviet Union invasion in 1979 — have vowed to clear the country of crime, corruption and war.

They have been welcomed by residents in many of the rural areas they have seized since emerging two years ago, but are likely to face far more social resistance from relatively liberal Kabulis.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Saudis to cut back on work permits

RIVADH (AFP) — The Saudi authorities are to cut back on the number of work permits given to expatriate workers to make way for an extra 190,000 Saudi workers by the year 2000, officials here said Friday. Work permits for 13 specialist trades will be suspended, and permits and working visas for another 14 trades will be reduced from the current two years to just one year, the officials added. "The labour ministry's decision, adopted this week, falls within the five year Saudi plan (1995 to 2000) aimed at, among other things, progressively replacing immigrant workers with 190,000 nationals between now and the year 2000," said a Saudi official. The government is already trying to convince private firms to replace expatriate workers with Saudi nationals. Labour ministry sources said around 330,000 workers, mainly Egyptians, working in public services, administration and business are expected to be affected by the measures. Around 167,000 Saudis are expected to graduate before the year 2000 and enter the labour market.

### Israel revives Israeli-Arab portfolio

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav was given the additional portfolio of minister in charge of the affairs of the country's 800,000 Israeli-Arabs on Friday, officials said. The decision to revive the post, which was axed by the Rabin government in 1992, sparked an immediate outcry from Israeli-Arab groups, who claimed having a ministry devoted solely to their affairs was tantamount to discrimination. "Israeli-Arabs want to be treated as full-fledged citizens," the Association of Israeli-Arab Municipalities said in a statement. Mr. Katzav told Israel Radio that he would be in a position to "better defend the demands of Israeli-Arabs, notably with the ministry of finance." "But if the Israeli-Arabs don't want a ministry, we'll drop it," he added. Nissam Zvili, secretary-general of the Labour Party, which abolished the portfolio while in power, said the new Likud Party government was "setting the Arabs back by years by creating a breach between the Israeli population," most of Israeli-Arabs are Muslims. They live mainly in the north of the country and elected nine deputies to the 120-member Knesset, or parliament, in Israel's May elections.

### Arab hostility to Israel unaltered — Sharon

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Arab hostility towards Israel has not been softened by the Middle East peace process according to hardline Israeli Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. "Even though we are carrying on peace negotiations, we must always remind ourselves that basic Arab hostility (towards us) remains unaltered," the Israeli press quoted Mr. Sharon as telling students at Tel Aviv University on Thursday. "The words have changed, but their intentions remain the same. Their tactics have perhaps altered, but not their strategy," added Mr. Sharon. Mr. Sharon is a former Israeli defence minister responsible for the military invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and who was later implicated in a report into the massacre of Palestinian refugees by pro-Israeli Lebanese militias. He is the leader of the hawkish faction within the ruling right-wing Likud Party, and a strong advocate of Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories.

### Iran hails black Muslim leader

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Friday described black U.S. Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan as a "divine hand in the land of great Satan." The controversial leader of the Nation of Islam "is nothing but a divine hand in the land of the great Satan," the ayatollah said, using a term Iran has attributed to the United States since its 1979 revolution. "God inspires such people as Farrakhan and gaudy Muslims," he said at the weekly prayers at Tehran University. Ayatollah Yazdi also said the "World Day of Atonement" rally by Mr. Farrakhan's supporters outside U.N. headquarters in New York on Wednesday was "an example that the Iranian revolution was exported." Police estimated that around 40,000 African-Americans attended the four-hour event, called to mark the first anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington on Oct. 16, 1995. During a visit here in February, Mr. Farrakhan paid tribute to the Iranian revolution, which toppled the pro-American shah, and the late founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Iranian leaders granted the Muslim leader a hospitable reception usually reserved for the heads of states. Mr. Farrakhan's trip to Iran and several other countries on the United States' list of terrorist countries provoked sharp criticism in Washington.

## Mauritania opposition party seeks toehold in parliament

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — A new party championing the rights of Mauritania's blacks and ex-slaves or their descendants tried to win a toehold in the national assembly on Friday in a legislative election run-off.

One week after the ruling Democratic and Social Republican Party won a crushing majority amid cries of fraud in the first round of the country's first truly multi-party legislative poll, Action for Change, carried opposition hopes into the second round.

The other two main opposition parties, one of which was boycotting the second round, urged their supporters to vote for Action for Change in the three constituencies where it stood to win a total of five of the assembly's 79 seats.

"I ask you to do everything necessary to urge all our militants and electors to vote massively in the second round for Action for Change," veteran opposition stalwart Ahmed Ould Daddah said in an eve-of-poll

message to his party. Polling began at 7 a.m. But early turnout was light.

There was a heavy security force presence in Nouakchott's Sebha constituency, where Action for Change was contesting one seat.

Mr. Ould Daddah's Union of Democratic Forces-New Era Party, which alleged massive fraud last Friday, passed up the chance of winning two seats by launching its boycott.

The ruling party won 61 seats in the first round. It won two by default because of the boycott and was in the running for all the other seats in Friday's run-offs.

Action for Change, formed just over a year ago and led by former slave Messoud Ould Boulkheir, was bidding to become the first opposition party to win a seat in the assembly.

The opposition boycotted the first legislative election in 1992, alleging widespread fraud after President Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmad Taya, who seized power in a bloodless 1984 coup, won a

six-year term. The ruling party won 67 of the 79 seats then.

Mauritania, a country of 2.2 million people at the Atlantic fringe of the Sahara Desert, straddles Arab and black Africa.

Light-skinned Moors, of Arab stock and blacks, each make up a third of the population, Arabic-speaking ex-slaves or Haratin the remainder. Mauritania formally banned slavery in 1980.

International observers spoke of "imperfections" in Friday's first round, in which the opposition had been hoping to make its mark ahead of a presidential election due by January 1998.

Independents, many of them ruling party supporters denied the party ticket, contested nine seats on Friday. An independent won one first round seat, a small party backing Mr. Ould Taya, the other.

The Union for Democracy and Progress also urged its supporters to vote for Action for Change.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19  
PROGRAMME TWO  
14:05 Adventures of Mickey and Donald  
14:30 The Bold and the Beautiful  
14:45 Just the Job  
15:00 Doc. — La France Aux Milles Villages  
15:30 Fete des Bebes  
16:00 Sports — Gillette  
16:30 Chris Cross  
17:00 News Flash  
17:01 News Flash  
17:15 Drama — Blue Heelers  
18:00 French Programme  
19:00 Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Ziva  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 Comedy — Something Wilder  
20:00 Doc. — New Literacy  
20:30 Prism  
21:10 Lois and Clarke  
22:00 News in English  
22:30 Return to Lonesome Dove  
23:59 Feature Film: "Born the Fourth of July"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:20 Fajr  
05:37 Sunrise Doha  
11:21 Dhuhr  
14:33 Asr  
17:04 Maghreb  
18:21 Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Amman International Church Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 843457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.  
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Youssef Rashed .....896301  
Dr. Ahmad Manna .....839756  
Dr. Khalil Jbali .....740740  
Dr. Jum'ah Abu Dhiab .....758848  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdows pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asema pharmacy .....637055  
Nairoush pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir .....276852  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Walid Halaseh .....982799  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111  
Civil Defence Department .....661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341

Agaba .....3637  
Deserts .....1353  
Jordan Valley .....2537  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 28, Agaba 37 Humidity  
readings: Amman 19 per cent.  
Agaba 26 per cent.

Civil Defence Emergency .....199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111,  
637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department .....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....773111  
Radio Jordan .....774111  
Water Authority .....680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615  
Electric Power Company .....636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre .....813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn .....644281/6  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn .....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital, 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....661164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .....775111/26  
Army, Marka .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....09983323  
Zarqa National Hospital .....09900560  
Dn Sinu Hospital .....09986732  
Al Hikam Modern Hospital .....09990990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital .....02275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital .....02272275  
Dn Al Nafees Hospital .....02247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital .....03314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
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Greek Catholic Hospital .....02272275  
Dn Al Nafees Hospital .....02247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital .....03314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.  
Apple .....700/500  
Banana .....500/500  
Banana (mukhammar) .....420/420  
Banana (imported) .....840/620  
Cabbage .....130/80  
Carrot .....380/150  
Cauliflower .....340/220  
Cucumber (large) .....180/100  
Cucumber (small) .....340/200  
Eggplant .....250/140  
Garlic .....700/450  
Grapes .....480/150  
Guava .....600/400  
Lemon .....360/200  
Marrow (large) .....240/200  
Marrow (small) .....380/250  
Mulukhiyah .....220/110  
Onion (green) .....300/180  
Onion (dry) .....140/80  
Okra .....950/550  
Olive .....580/450  
Pear .....650/550  
Pepper (hot) .....340/200  
Pepper (sweet) .....360/220  
Pomegranate .....350/200  
Potato .....280/180  
Spinach .....330/200  
String Bean .....600/400  
Tomato .....240/160







# Chechens say war will resume if Lebed removed

GROZNY, Russia (R) — Chechen separatist leaders said Thursday that war would resume if their breakaway region if Russian President Boris Yeltsin sacked his controversial Security Chief Alexander Lebed.

Gen. Lebed, architect of a fragile Chechen peace deal, is embroiled in a vicious feud with Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov and has been criticised by other top officials.

"If they get rid of Gen. Lebed, we will have to prepare for war because you can expect anything from people like Kulikov," separatist Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov told Reuters.

Mr. Kulikov has publicly blasted the deal, which postpones for five years a decision on the region's political status, saying it means caving in to separatist demands and marks a humiliating defeat for the Russian army.

On Wednesday Mr. Kulikov accused Gen. Lebed of planning to seize power in Moscow with the help of 1,500 Chechen fighters. Gen. Lebed denies the charges.

Commander Maskhadov told Radio Russia that Mr. Kulikov's claim was untrue. "We have no intention of getting involved in sorting out sordid squabbles in Moscow. We have enough on our plate," said Commander Maskhadov, a co-signatory of Gen. Lebed's Aug. 31 peace accord.

"We think that Gen. Lebed is a realistic person who was the first to see that Russia and the people of

Russia are in danger," he said.

"Kulikov, on the contrary, is a disgrace for the army and Russia," Commander Maskhadov said.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is preparing for a heart operation, has not yet decided how to react to Kulikov's accusations but is concerned about some of Gen. Lebed's actions, presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Thursday.

Rebel spokesman Movladi Udogov said he was confident that Gen. Lebed would survive the latest round of Kremlin mudslinging.

"His opponents will fail because, according to our information, Gen. Lebed is very popular with the Russian people," Mr. Udogov told Reuters.

A recent opinion poll showed Gen. Lebed was the most trusted politician in Russia.

Tens of thousands of people, mainly civilians, died in the 21-month Chechen conflict launched in December 1994 when Russia sent troops to quell the southern region's independence bid.

Meanwhile, Chechen rebels defied Moscow Friday by setting a date early next year for presidential and parliamentary elections in the breakaway Russian republic.

The Chechen parliament said it would hold presidential and parliamentary elections on Jan. 27, a move likely to anger Moscow which has repeatedly contested the right of the separatists to make any unilateral

decisions under the peace agreement.

The separatists said the resolution was taken in a parliamentary vote Friday "conforming to the constitution of (Chechnya) and to the accords reached between Russia and Chechnya."

Gen. Lebed, who had warned Thursday that the situation in Chechnya would rapidly deteriorate as a result of his dismissal, "will remain for the time being" in his role as trouble-shooter in the republic, a presidential spokesman said.

"For now, we have no decree dismissing Gen. Lebed from his post in Chechnya," the spokesman said, adding that he did not know if such a decree was being drafted.

On Thursday, Gen. Lebed had warned that Chechnya would end up in "the worst possible scenario," adding that peace efforts "will now be up to the Russian (soldiers' mothers."

But quoted in another report, Gen. Lebed said he was confident the war was over.

"The bloody pivot of war in Chechnya has been broken," he said Thursday.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, regarded as one of Gen. Lebed's rivals for the Russian presidency, said Friday that the retired general had "committed a dangerous error" in signing the accord, according to the ITAR-TASS agency.

Mr. Luzhkov, who had previously labelled the accord as a "capitulation by

Moscow, said the agreement was "dedicated to excluding Chechnya from the Russian Federation, removing the force of the Russian constitution, Russian laws and the need to preserve the territorial integrity of our country."

Russian officials have repeatedly contested the separatists' plans to hold elections after the pullout of Russian troops from Chechnya is completed, although a deadline for the withdrawal has yet to be finalised.

Moscow has said that a joint commission due to be set up to coordinate the peace process must be involved in the electoral process, but also said that any elections now would be premature.

Chechen rebels said Thursday that the commission "will of course be informed on all decisions taken on (the elections) and the situation will be clarified to (Russian) representatives," Interfax reported.

Russian authorities had also expressed concern Thursday that the rebels were seizing power violently in some towns and villages in the republic.

In a message to separatist leaders, Gen. Lebed's deputy Sergei Kharlamov, currently visiting Chechnya, said the rebels were "grossly violating the agreements reached earlier to preserve existing organs of power in the republic's towns and districts."



South African President Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel attend a wreath laying ceremony in a village on the South African - Mozambique border, at the place where Samora Machel, President and a liberator of the former Portuguese colony, was killed ten years ago in a mysterious plane crash. South African President Nelson Mandela and his new sweetheart Graca Machel made their first official appearance together at the ceremony (Reuters photo)

## Nelson Mandela and new love mourn Machel air crash death

MBUZINI, South Africa (R)

South African President Nelson Mandela and his new sweetheart Graca Machel made their first official appearance together Thursday, in a ceremony marked more by tears than kisses.

Mr. Mandela vowed to uncover the truth about her husband's death 10 years ago.

The two arrived separately on a remote arid hillside hard by the Mozambique-South African border, marked by an electric fence, where a Soviet plane crashed mysteriously on Oct. 19, 1986, killing Samora Machel, president and liberator of the former Portuguese colony.

The couple, who made public their intimate relationship just last month when they announced plans to live together part of the time, maintained a discreet distance from each other during ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the crash.

Out of sight of photographers, Mr. Mandela gave Graca a peck on the cheek as he arrived, and later briefly placed a hand on her shoulder to comfort her after they had both placed wreaths at a simple brick monument for Samora.

But the South African president declined to pose for photographers with his beloved, saying he wanted nothing to detract from the solemnity of the occasion.

"It would give the wrong impression," he said. "And as you can see, she is quite disturbed at the moment."

Onlookers in a crowd of some 2,000 from both sides of the border wore white T-shirts with photos of Samora Machel's bearded face printed on them, inscribed with the words "Always with us."

In an odd mixture of joy and pain, speeches grieving the tragic loss of one of Africa's most renowned freedom fighters were followed by traditional entertainment featuring dancers with machetes, kudu horns, ostrich feathers, animal skins and umbrellas.

Bare-bottomed Swazi maidens were followed by Zulu dancers, a white-gloved jive group and a comedy army platoon drilling with wooden Kalashnikovs, all of them stamping up clouds of red dust from the dry earth in front of a tent shading Mr. Mandela and Machel.

Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano and the Russian ambassadors from South Africa and Mozambique also attended. In recent interviews, 51-year-old Graca, who mourned her husband for years after his death, has coyly admitted her love for the 78-year-old Mandela, but has said she has no plans to marry.

In a brief speech, she told the crowds her mind and feelings were in a tumult at

the site where her husband left his blood.

She fought back tears after placing flowers at his memorial, then retreated to sob quietly in the arms of her children.

Mr. Mandela said the crash had robbed Africa of a hero, and made clear he did not believe the findings of an official inquiry which blamed pilot error.

Anti-apartheid forces said they suspected that Machel, a supporter of their movement, was killed when his plane was lured off-course by a radar beacon planted by South African agents.

"Certainty about the precise chain of events which robbed Africa of one of its greatest leaders still eludes us," he said.

"We do know however, that at that time, savage wounds were being inflicted on our beloved southern Africa by the apartheid war machine. No corner of the region was spared the cruelty and...barbarity of the defenders of this crime against humanity."

"No country that identified with the yearning of the South African people, no leader who expressed practical solidarity with them, was spared," Mr. Mandela said.

"We shall leave no stone unturned to ensure that, in the fullness of time, nothing but the whole truth is known about these events."

## Japanese election picture shapes up as LDP comeback

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party —

trounced in 1993 elections — is poised to bounce back in Sunday's general election, with some political analysts even forecasting a possible landslide.

All opinion polls have the LDP, Japan's largest party, as favourites to either win a slim majority or form the next government with defections from other parties.

The polls also show, however, that the LDP is benefiting from the emergence of the Democratic Party, which is stealing critical votes from the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), said Takayoshi Miyagawa of the Centre for Political Public Relations, a think tank.

"It's not that the LDP is doing any better than expected, only that Shinshinto is doing far worse because the undecided and anti-LDP votes appear to be going to the democrats," he told Reuters in an interview.

The Democratic Party was formed only last month. It boasts as one of its leaders Health Minister Naoto Kan, who has won national hero status this year by uncovering his ministry's role in hushing up a scandal over HIV-tainted blood products.

Mr. Miyagawa said he has upgraded his former projec-

tion that the LDP would secure about 260 seats in the 500-seat lower house to a forecast that "even 290-300 seats are possible."

Such a forecast is a dramatic turnaround from what was expected when official campaigning started 10 days ago. At that time, the LDP and Shinshinto were neck-and-neck, with neither expected to win a majority.

The higher projections for the LDP reflect expectations that as many as 30 of Sunday's winners outside the LDP — independents and members of Shinshinto and smaller opposition groups — will join the LDP after the election, Mr. Miyagawa said.

The key, if not sole, factors in the rosy scenario for the LDP are the Democrats' emergence and every other group's desire to be part of the ruling party, Mr. Miyagawa said.

LDP leaders have carefully laid out a welcome mat for the return of any prodigal sons who defected from the LDP when its unbroken 38-year rule ended in 1993, he said.

The LDP is also in the best position to take advantage of a new electoral system, in which 300 seats will be contested in first-past-the-post constituencies — a change that favours large parties with strong local organisation.

The other 200 seats will be decided by proportional

representation, determined by party strength.

Reacting to the rosy projections, LDP Secretary-General Koichi Kato has told party supporters not to let down their guard or let turnout fall.

"Staying away from polls thinking the LDP is home safe is tantamount to giving half a vote to the opposition," Mr. Kato told supporters at party headquarters earlier this week.

Surveys have shown that voters may stay away from polling stations in record numbers. Forecasts say the turnout may be below 60 per cent. The postwar record low turnout is 1993's 67.26 per cent.

The weather forecast for Sunday is mainly fine, another factor which analysts say favours the LDP, because it will enable the party's strong nationwide organisation to get out the vote.

The LDP ruled Japan from 1955 to 1993. After a brief period out of power, it came back as the dominant partner in a coalition government from mid-1994.

The biggest losers Sunday are expected to be the LDP's coalition partners in the outgoing government, the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake, polls say.

## Court rejects widow's right to husband's sperm

LONDON (AFP) — A

young widow is to appeal against a high court rejection of her application to be inseminated with the frozen sperm of her husband who died 18 months ago. The legal battle launched by Diane Blood and unprecedented in Britain began after she was refused permission to be impregnated with sperm taken from her husband in March 1995 while he was in a coma suffering from meningitis. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) said Ms. Blood, 30, did not have her husband's written permission. The HFEA, which regulates such questions under an act of parliament, says no artificial insemination can take place in Britain without the written consent of the donor. Ms. Blood listened in tears as Judge Stephen Brown upheld the decision though he acknowledged that there was "universal sympathy" for her plight. He also said the law prevented her from taking her husband's sperm out of Britain for her to be impregnated abroad. Ms. Blood's lawyer said she would appeal the ruling.

## Rock star arrested on drugs charge

LONDON (AFP) —

Michael Hutchence, the singer with Australian rock band INXS, was arrested here on suspicion of possessing drugs and released on bail pending further inquiries, police said. Hutchence's lover, Paula Yates, was also arrested and bailed this week in connection with an investigation into a substance found by police last month at the home they share in the exclusive Chelsea area of London. Both Hutchence and TV presenter Yates — the former wife of Irish rock singer Bob Geldof — deny that the substance, found under a bed, was theirs, and are believed to have told police it was placed there by someone else. After news of last month's police raid on the Hutchence-Yates residence emerged, Geldof, 41, made a high court application for temporary custody of the three children he had had with Yates. But after his ex-wife's return last week from Australia, where she had been on holiday with Hutchence, a four-day custody hearing ended with the former married couple agreeing to continue sharing the care of Fifi, Trixie, 13, Peaches, six, and Pixie, four.

Police boxing

COLMAR, France (AFP) — A couple found beating each other up in a phone box in the middle of the night were arrested and ordered to do community service, police said Friday.

"While officers were patrolling they saw a man and a woman exchanging blows in a telephone box," said a spokesman. "It was like two fish in a goldfish bowl," he said.

## Dutch store drops 'nazi' coat

AMSTERDAM (R) —

Dutch department store De Bijenkorf has removed a woman's coat from its new fashion line after complaints that it resembled a Nazi uniform, De Telegraaf newspaper said. The print on the coat was an almost exact match with the pattern of the camouflage battledress worn by the Waffen-SS, which was responsible for many atrocities during World War II, the paper said. The 149 guilder (\$90) coat was removed from the racks last night by Bijenkorf management. It appeared in a catalogue widely distributed in the Netherlands Wednesday. The store was asking its buyers for an explanation of the incident, the paper said. Bijenkorf was not immediately available for comment.

## Scientists see new evidence in smoking-cancer link

WASHINGTON (R) — For the first time, U.S. scientists have shown a direct link between smoking and lung cancer on the cellular level, adding to mounds of statistical evidence and animal studies done over the past 30 years.

Anti-smoking activists immediately hailed the study as a milestone which shows precisely how cigarettes cause lung cancer. The tobacco institute, the industry's main lobby, said it would have no comment until scientific experts reviewed it.

The study, which will appear Friday in the prestigious journal Science, identifies a substance in the "tar" of cigarette smoke that directly transforms human lung tissue.

Using a technique called genetic amplification, the researchers showed that benzo(a)pyrene-metabolite (BPDE) caused damage to specific sites on the P53 tumour suppressor gene that exactly matched the genetic damage seen in about 60 per cent of lung cancers. Cancer researchers call those damaged sites or mutations the "hot spots."

"Our study thus provides a direct link between a defined cigarette smoke carcinogen and human cancer mutations," wrote the scientists from City of Hope Cancer Centre in Duarte, California, and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre at the University of Texas.

Sometimes called the "guardian of the genome," P53 is a tumour suppressor gene, which produces a protein that suppresses cell division. In about 60 per

cent of cancers, however, there is a defect in the gene, which sets off abnormal cell growth and tumour formation.

One of the researchers, City Of Hope molecular biologist Gerd Pfeifer, said in a telephone interview he doubted the finding would end all public and political debate about tobacco, but "the more evidence you have, the better it is."

Critics of the smoking industry were buoyed. "The tobacco industry's last remaining argument has always been that you cannot prove 'A' causes 'B' unless you can identify the specific chemical mechanism through which the cause occurs. This isn't true, but the new study now removes even this weak argument," said John Banzhaf, a law professor and the executive director of the Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). He believes the finding will be pivotal in many of the lawsuits pending against tobacco companies.

"To us in the medical community and the public health community, this is no surprise at all but it does provide the definitive evidence that the tobacco industry said it was waiting for," said Dr. Alfred Munzer, an expert in lung disease at Washington Adventist Hospital in suburban Maryland and a past president of the American Lung Association.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of U.S. cancer deaths and the most common type of tumour around the world. More than 419,000 people died in the United States

last year of lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society, and about 85 to 90 per cent of those cancers are smoking-related.

Mr. Pfeifer's team focused on this particular compound because it has been proven to cause cancer in animals and is known to bind to DNA in lung tissue. "It was a strong candidate," said Mr. Pfeifer, an expert in DNA damage and repair.

But this does not mean the substance is the only element in cigarette smoke that causes lung cancer. Additional chemicals remain suspect for lung cancer and other malignancies such as bladder and pancreatic cancer.

"How much is this particular substance and how much is others — that is not known," said Mr. Pfeifer. Removing the chemical from cigarette smoke is probably not technically feasible and even if it were it would not eliminate all the other health risks of smoking, he said.

At some point in the future, the technique Mr. Pfeifer used may permit scientists to determine accurately which potential environmental carcinogens endanger humans.

That could save billions of dollars by "eliminating unnecessary environmental protection regulation of harmless agents and intensifying control of known carcinogens," said.

Dr. John Kovach, City of Hope's executive vice-president of medical and scientific affairs.

## Hutu refugees flee fighting in Zaire

BUJUMBURA (AFP) —

Some 20,000 Hutu refugees have fled camps in eastern Zaire because of clashes between government troops and armed gangs infiltrating the country from Burundi, relief officials said Friday.

The aid workers, reached by telephone in Uvira, said there were clashes overnight less than 30 kilometres north of the town, and that refugees began fleeing the nearby Runingo and Kagunga camps Tuesday.

"Fighting is continuing with light arms, grenades and mortars" Friday morning, one of the sources said.

"The infiltrators from Burundi wanted to cross the Rusizi plain to get into the mountains overlooking Uvira. They were intercepted by the Zaireans," the source added.

Since the beginning of September, the army has been fighting armed bands of Banyamunzere, Tutsis of Rwandan origin who have long lived in Zaire, in the Uvira region.

Zaire has several times accused the Rwandan Tutsi-minority army of training and equipping some 3,000 Banyamunzere who have gone to the combat zone via Burundi, which also has a Tutsi-dominated army at odds with extremists of the Hutu majority.

The Kigali and Bujumbura regimes have denied these charges.

The Uvira region is home to scores of thousands of Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi. Burundi is gripped by ethnic conflict and many of the Rwandans are reluctant to return home for fear of reprisals by the mainly Tutsi government for the massacres of more than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in a genocidal civil war in 1994.

With more than a million Rwandan refugees camped around Lake Kivu on the border between Zaire and Rwanda, north of Uvira, the Kinshasa government faces serious ethnic unrest in the east of the country.

## Hurricane hits island south of Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Hurricane Lili hit the Isle of Youth south of Cuba Thursday night on a path expected to take it onto the mainland and then over or near the Cuban capital Friday, forecasters said.

Weather forecaster Jose Rubiera told state television the storm was packing sustained maximum winds of around 80 mph (130 kph), adding these were likely to strengthen. The Isle of Youth was experiencing intense rain, he said.

He said the hurricane would hit the mainland somewhere in the province of Havana countryside in the early hours of Friday and then head toward the Cuban capital Havana.

There was no word yet on any casualties or on the extent of damage to property or crops on the Isle of Youth, which is an area of large citrus plantations.

State television said that local officials had not yet reported any casualties, but

Mr. Rubiera said that one of the first pieces of damage was the antenna of the local weather office on the island.

President Fidel Castro Thursday urged Havana residents to step up preparations as the hurricane strengthened and bore down on Cuba with torrential rains and flood tides.

At least 10 people were killed and hundreds driven from their homes as rain from Lili lashed Central America, local authorities said.



# World News

**Court rejects widow's right to husband's sperm**

LONDON (AFP) — A young widow is to appeal against a high court decision of her application to inseminate with her husband's frozen sperm of her late husband who died 18 months ago. The legal case, launched by Diane Blood and unprecedented in Britain, began after she refused permission to be impregnated with sperm taken from her husband, March 1995 while he was in a coma suffering from meningitis. The Human Fertilisation and Embology Authority (HFEA) said Mrs. Blood, 30, did not have her husband's sperm. The HFEA, which regulates actions under an act of parliament, says no artificial insemination can be placed in Britain without written consent of a donor. Mrs. Blood had in 1994, as Judge Judge, by a court order, the donor's sperm from taking her husband's sperm for her to be impregnated. The HFEA said the donor's sperm was not her husband's and she must appeal the decision.

**Rock star arrested on drugs charge**

LONDON (AFP) — A British rock star, David Byrne, was arrested on charges of possession of drugs and possession of a controlled substance. Byrne, 40, was arrested at his home in London. He is accused of possessing a quantity of cocaine and a controlled substance. Byrne is a member of the band Talking Heads. He is currently on bail and is expected to appear in court next month.



Taiwanese anti-nuclear protesters storm a police line after fire bombing a police jeep outside Taiwan's parliament as tempers flared hours before a crucial vote on the fate of a stonewalled fourth nuclear power station Friday. Militant activists hurled petrol bombs from a truck that crashed through a razor wire barricade a few hundred metres from parliament and the presidential palace (Reuters photo)

## Anti-nuclear protest staged outside Taiwan parliament

TAIPEI (AFP) — About two dozen anti-nuclear protesters clashed with riot police here Friday as thousands massed around Taiwan's parliament before a key vote on a controversial nuclear power plant.

The clashes occurred during a standoff between about 4,000 riot police and some 2,000 protesters mobilized by the main opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and the radical Taiwan Independence Party (TAIP).

Two TAIP activists threw petrol bombs from a van at a riot police vehicle, as a breakaway group tried to

breach police barricades around the nearby presidential palace.

The van got to within 300 metres of the palace before military police hauled out the pair, Chang Shuang-Fu and Chiu Wen-Kui, and arrested them.

A local photographer and a police officer also required several stitches in the head after protesters beat them up, witnesses said.

The riot police had been deployed to guard the parliament, the adjacent presidential palace, the foreign ministry, the education ministry and other government units.

The breakaway group of about 20 demonstrators tore down flags left over from Oct. 10 national day celebrations and used the flagpoles to battle police, but finally backed off as riot police advanced on them.

The protest, which included another 20 political and environmental groups and scores of university students, began with an overnight vigil, when about 100 vehicles gathered outside parliament, sounding their horns.

Parliament will later Friday vote on whether to scrap a may decision to block the controversial

\$6.4-billion nuclear power plant and other nuclear programs.

The plant would be Taiwan's fourth nuclear power station.

Some 800 elderly residents from northern Kung Liao township, where the nuclear plant is planned to be located, also took part in the demonstration.

"We'd rather die than have the plant," one of them said.

Another group of about 200 Kung Liao residents held a separate demonstration outside the economics ministry, pelting the building with eggs and jostling with police, local television reported.



A Taiwanese military police officer puts a headlock on an anti-nuclear protester during a clash outside the presidential palace Friday. The protester had driven a truck, loaded with other activists, through a razor-wire police barricade in front of the palace (Reuters photo)

## Japan cult guru throws murder trial into confusion

TOKYO (R) — The cult leader accused of masterminding last year's Tokyo subway gas attack threw his murder trial into confusion Friday by first admitting responsibility in a courtroom outburst and then declaring his innocence.

After weeks of stony silence during his month-long trial, Shoko Asahara surprised the court with his outburst during cross examination of a top disciple at the Tokyo district court.

Mr. Asahara is guru of Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect), a doomsday cult that prosecutors say planned to bring down the Japanese government with its attacks.

Mr. Asahara, who said he had heard from his "gods", also warned court-appointed defence lawyers they would die if they continued questioning the disciple, Yoshihiro Inoue, the guru's

top lieutenant in the gassing.

"Yoshihiro Inoue was formerly my disciple. He is also a man of accomplishment. I would like to shoulder responsibility for all incidents. So please stop questioning him," Mr. Asahara said.

"I was instructed by God in my detention cell this morning," Mr. Asahara, whose real name is Chizuo Matsumoto, told the judge.

"If he (Inoue) is questioned, you (the defence team) will also die," Mr. Asahara said.

It was the first time Mr. Asahara had publicly admitted to the subway attack in March last year, which killed 11 and made some 6,000 ill.

The court went into recess after Mr. Asahara's outburst, reconvening an hour later.

After consulting with his

lawyers during the recess, Mr. Asahara, 41, stood up and this time declared his innocence.

"Although I am completely innocent, I don't want to torment the great soul of a man like Inoue," Mr. Asahara said.

The prosecution had called Inoue as one of its witnesses in Mr. Asahara's six-month-long trial for murder in the subway attack.

Since his arrest, Mr. Inoue has spoken out against Mr. Asahara, saying he was under the influence of the guru who directly ordered the attack.

Mr. Asahara, arrested in May 1995, has been indicted on 17 charges ranging from murder to illegal production of drugs and weapons. He faces the death penalty by hanging if convicted.

He has refused to enter pleas in all of his trials.

But scores of his followers have testified in court in their own trials that he ordered the gas attacks and other crimes.

About 30 of Mr. Asahara's top lieutenants have also been indicted for the subway gassing, the murder of a follower who tried to quit the group, use of illegal drugs and attempts to mass-produce Russian-designed automatic weapons.

As well as being charged with the Tokyo subway attack, Mr. Asahara has been accused of masterminding a nerve gas attack on the central Japanese city of Matsuyama in July 1994 that killed seven people and made 600 ill.

The 10,000-member Aum Shinri Kyo, which has already been declared bankrupt, is under threat of extinction as Japan is expected to outlaw the doomsday cult in several months.

## Miss World India venue will not change — organisers

BOMBAY (R) — Organisers of the Miss World 1996 beauty contest Thursday said they would not shift the pageant from the southern Indian city of Bangalore despite protests by women and political activists.

"I want to categorically state that the Miss World pageant will take place in Bangalore," Manohar Arcot, general manager of Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd (ABCL), told a news conference in Bombay.

"ABCL is committed to staging the event in Bangalore," Mr. Arcot denied reports that the pageant was being shifted to the western state of Goa, adding the state of Karnataka, of which Bangalore is the capital, was "firmly and absolutely committed" to the event.

The contest, scheduled for Nov. 12 to 23, has evoked protests from conservative Hindus in Karnataka.

In Bombay, about 100 members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the youth wing of the Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, raised banners decrying

the ABCL outside its office in the suburb of Juhu Thursday.

"This Miss World contest is deplorable. It only highlights the physical aspect of a woman and it treats them as commodities," said Chandrakant Waghmare, an ABVP activist.

Beauty contests have become popular with upper classes in India's major cities in the past two years after the country's representative won Miss Universe and Miss World titles in 1994.

"Aishwarya Rai became Miss World. The only thing she did was to bring Pepsi to India. What India basically needs is pure drinking water," said Minal Marathe, another ABVP activist.

Ms. Rai models for the American soft drink giant.

The organisers have already shifted the swimsuit section of the pageant to the Indian Ocean islands of the Seychelles to soothe conservative local protesters.

Mr. Arcot denied the decision had been taken under pressure.

## Dole takes gloves off in last-ditch bid against Clinton

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (R) — Republican Bob Dole has taken the gloves off in his last-ditch battle to catch up with President Bill Clinton, adding a new charge of democratic "money laundering" to a list of alleged ethical misdeeds.

With 18 days to go before the election, Mr. Dole planned a grueling schedule of rallies Friday here, in Wichita, Kansas, and in Denver before stopping for the night in London, Kentucky.

He arrived here from California where he concluded a four-day trip Thursday, demonstrating his aggressive new style. Mr. Dole said in effect, "no more Mr. nice guy," by heading his advisers who had urged him to get tough in a go-for-broke effort to come from behind and win the election.



The question remained whether his aggressive style will attract or turn off voters. Some advisers fear it will remind undecided voters of the Dole image of old, the hard-edged "hatchet man" first etched in 1976.

That was when, as the vice presidential running mate with then-President Gerald Ford, he referred to "democrat wars" for this century's wartime deaths and casualties.

Mr. Dole's get-tough strategy was evident in the final debate with Mr. Clinton Wednesday in San Diego.

Post-debate polls gave the debate to Mr. Clinton but Mr. Dole national chairman Donald Rumsfeld, a former defence secretary, attributed the losing debate polls to instant reactions by people who dislike critical attacks. Talking to reporters, he predicted that in a few days Dole would pick up support from the debate.

"We're going to get tough," Mr. Dole said, in Riverside, California, to a partisan audience Thursday. "You haven't seen anything yet."

Then during rallies in Riverside and in Glendale, California, before flying here, Mr. Dole accused Mr. Clinton of being soft on illegal immigration and drug imports, breaking 1992 campaign promises for a middle-class tax cut and for leading a party that

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole greets the crowd at a presidential campaign stop at the Mission Inn in Riverside, California. Sen. Dole promised a tough battle for vote-rich California as he charged President Bill Clinton with a "sorry record" on illegal immigration, a heated issue in this state (Reuters photo)

has accepted what he said were improper donations and "money laundering" of foreign funds.

This last charge was a revamped version of his criticism of reports of hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions to the Democratic Party — not to Mr. Clinton's campaign directly — of money from people associated with the giant Lippo Group banking combine in Indonesia.

At one rally he told the crowd that the United States was getting "foreign aid" from Indonesia interests.

He also assailed a fundraiser attended by Vice President Al Gore at a Buddhist temple last April near Los Angeles — where

members take vows of poverty — but where Mr. Dole said Democrats got thousands of dollars.

"The next thing is they'll have a fundraiser at a homeless shelter," said Mr. Dole of the reports of the Buddhist temple money-raising. "In Glendale, California, he said people involved in the Buddhist affair reportedly were Taiwanese — 'somebody brought in the cash' and somebody passed it on. 'That's called money laundering, and they've done so much of it they've got a laundromat next to the vice president's house in Washington, D.C.," he said.

The Dole campaign announced it will make a major effort to win California.

the nation's biggest state with 54 electoral votes out of the 270 a candidate needs to win the presidency.

Mr. Dole campaign manager Scott Reed told reporters the campaign would spend "in the millions" in ads to win California without giving details.

California Attorney General Dan Lungren told reporters that the Dole campaign had promised 20 appearances by Mr. Dole, running mate Jack Kemp and Mr. Dole's wife, Elizabeth, until election day on Nov. 5.

Mr. Reed said the campaign has \$25 million left and state parties have about \$30 million, which campaign aides estimated was more than the Clinton campaign.

## Dostum's military strength coveted by warring Afghan factions

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (AFP) — Far from the chaos of Kabul and the Taliban's forced Islamisation, Mazar-e-Sharif is held with an iron grip by ethnic Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

This "capital" of northern Afghanistan is an oasis on the edge of a war in which the backing of Gen. Dostum's forces is now eagerly sought by rival militias. Gen. Dostum has run northern Afghanistan autonomously from the Kabul government since 1992 and presides over a veritable boomtown.

In its dusty, noisy streets, 400 kilometres from the capital, pictures of Indian actresses still adorn the windows of well-stocked shops. Such images have disappeared from Kabul since its capture by the Taliban militia three weeks ago and the imposition of strict Islamic law there. In offices in Mazar, unveiled women wearing make-up still welcome a visitor.

However, in Kabul, the Taliban have forbidden girls from attending school and women from working at jobs outside the home. Men are required to grow beards.

"Mazar is Kabul before the Taliban," said a Western journalist, a can of beer in his hand, before heading south to the Salang Pass — the boundary of Gen. Dostum's fiefdom — where the forces of the deposed government's top commander Ahmad Shah Massoud have been waging a guerrilla war against the Taliban.

"The Taliban won't come here and I wouldn't grow a

beard," said one of Gen. Dostum's commanders, Ahmad Wajidi, wearing a camouflage uniform with a Kalashnikov slung across his shoulder.

A splendid blue mosque nearby contains the mausoleum of Ali, son-in-law of the Prophet Mohammad. Mazar-e-Sharif means "the tomb of the king" in Farsi.

Portraits of Gen. Dostum, in the style of Iraq's Saddam Hussein, hang everywhere from Mazar's ochre bastions. Invisible from the road behind ramparts surrounding roughly-made blockhouses, dozens of new T-55 and T-72 tanks of Soviet design stand alongside the wrecks of machine-gun carriers rusting in the sun — a reminder that during the Soviet occupation from 1979 to 1989, the Mujahadeen were also active here.

Gen. Dostum, governor of Mazar, was a renegade to the communist regime which disappeared in 1992. Now master of the north and supported by the former Soviet republics of Central Asia and Russia, other Afghan factions are trying to forge an alliance with him.

Gen. Dostum, whose forces are estimated at several tens of thousands, has run six provinces in northern Afghanistan since he broke with the last communist regime.

Last week, faction leaders Massoud and Gen. Dostum met near the Salang Tunnel to try to establish a military alliance against the Taliban. Movement opposes no ethnic group.

## Asian Titans Battle for Security Council seat

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Amid charges of dollar diplomacy and dirty tricks, the battle of Asian rivals Japan and India for a place on the U.N. Security Council is to be resolved Monday, but the outcome is far from certain.

The general assembly will elect five new members of the 15-strong Security Council made up of 10 non-permanent or rotating members with two-year mandates and five permanent members with veto rights — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The Asian rivals have both led aggressive and lengthy campaigns that have turned ugly at times. "Dirty tricks" charges have also been levelled against Portugal which is in a separate fight competition with Australia.

Most diplomats here give economic powerhouse Japan the edge while admitting that India, with a population nearing one billion, will be tough to beat and they expect the vote to go beyond the first round. A two-thirds majority is required for victory.

India, represented at the U.N. by Prakash Shah, formerly posted in Tokyo, and Japanese envoy Hisashi Owada, the father of Japan's future empress, Crown Princess Masako, have assiduously courted all 183 other U.N. members.

Asian sources suggest that India fears Tokyo is using "Yen diplomacy" to buy votes with promises of economic cooperation and

threats of aid cut-offs.

They cite Japan's invitation of African U.N. representatives to Tokyo in August for an all-expenses paid conference on development.

They allege that Japan has also promised money to help pay U.N. dues for almost 10 countries unable to vote at the general assembly because they are in arrears.

In contrast, Mr. Shah asserted that all votes for New Delhi would be freely given. "We are not twisting arms," he said.

Because of the secret ballot, "anything is possible" Monday, said a source familiar with general assembly voting habits.

Diplomats say that India has suggested to potential supporters that they are only committed to their word in a first round, and could drop Japan in subsequent ballots.

New Delhi is pushing India as a counterbalance to U.S. and western influence, offering itself as a voice "of the majority" and the "underprivileged."

India's opposition to the comprehensive test ban treaty will not necessarily harm its candidature. At last month's vote to adopt the treaty, India took a firm stand without attempting to block the decision by an overwhelming majority.

"We can stand alone when it becomes necessary," said Mr. Shah.

He said that a security council that wants to be taken seriously should be balanced, and expressed concern about the over-representation of "rich countries."



Dr. Musa Keilani

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1973.

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## Time to prepare flights

A JORDANIAN request for an approval by the U.N. to resume Royal Jordanian flights from Amman to Baghdad certainly is now more worthy of consideration by the international body, although it was never an unsound proposition. True the implementation of the oil-for-food deal that Iraq has signed with the U.N. is being put on hold for the time being due to uncertainties in the north of the country as a result of factional fighting among Iraqi Kurds. But the truth is that all preparations should be made now for the deal to go through when the time is right. After all, the agreement has been duly negotiated and concluded and will be ready for implementation as soon as the situation stabilises in the Kurdish areas.

With this in mind, the U.N. Sanctions Committee may at least approve in principle the request by Royal Jordanian to fly a limited number of flights between Amman and the Iraqi capital and make its execution contingent on restoring stability to the north of Iraq. That making Iraq accessible to the outside world by air is necessary for the purpose of the eventual enforcement of Security Council resolution 986 is a foregone conclusion. There is no way that the humanitarian objectives of the resolution can be more easily and practically served than in restoring the air link between Baghdad and Amman.

For starters, U.N. personnel who would supervise the application of the accord, would clearly need an efficient and speedy method of travelling to Iraq. The transfer of medicines and foodstuffs to that country, on the other hand, also calls for the use of air transport.

There is a reservoir of trust already established between us and the U.N. on the ability and determination of Jordan to halt any violation of the sanctions regime. Additionally, and in order to protect our own interests, Jordan will not allow the projected flights to circumvent the boycott. The supervision and regulation of the flights would be in safe hands, to be sure.

When we keep in mind that Jordan is merely asking for an international approval for a limited number of regular flights to facilitate official international connections with Baghdad, and the actual implementation of a U.N. resolution, it becomes clear that any further procrastination over a decision on this request might be seen as politically motivated and as such indefensible.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

MUNES RAZZAZ, a writer for Al Ra'i, wondered why the Islamic jihad and Hamas have stopped their suicide bombings against Israel following the rise to power by the Likud and its allies. It is a mystery to see these two groups, which blew up the vehicles in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv prompting Israel to suspend the peace process and tighten the closure on the West Bank, fall silent, said the writer. Some say that these groups stopped their campaigns because they have achieved their goal of causing the peace process to fail, but the fact is that this process has not stopped and the Palestinians are more likely now to get a worse deal than before, according to the writer. Stressing that he is not encouraging further acts of violence but merely surprised by the behaviour of Hamas and the Islamic jihad and their passive stand vis-à-vis the government of Benjamin Netanyahu and its practices, the writer said the suicide bombings against Israel have succeeded only in strengthening the Israeli-U.S. alliance. He said the man in the street wants to hear the views of Islamic jihad and Hamas about their present behaviour and their lack of action against Israel's continued atrocities.

THE OUTCRY in the Arab media over Israel's illegal measures at the Aqsa Mosque and in Jerusalem and its killing of Arab protesters did nothing to stop the Jewish state and its hardline government from pursuing their practices against the Palestinians, said Mohammad Duoud, a writer for Al Dustour. The seminars, articles and demonstrations did not contribute to ending Israel's moves which are clearly designed to Judaize the Arab city with all its religious sites. Indeed, since the 1967 occupation, Jerusalem has been the main target of the Zionists who have been taking a series of measures to secure the success of their plots, noted the writer. Expressing pessimism over the situation and the future of the city, the writer said that the Arab and Islamic nations have served lip service to the Palestinians through their denunciation of Israel's measures but, regrettably, fell silent afterwards, refraining from taking a practical move that could put an end to Israel's illegal actions. The Arabs and Muslims, said the writer, have not yet learnt that mere words of condemnation and complaints to the United Nations can never deter Israel from committing further crimes.

## Jordanian Perspective

# 'If Israel is not committed to peace, agreements are worthless'

LET US understand one thing loud and clear: No matter how Israel looks at it, there is no escape from the reality that there will not be any movement on the peace negotiations if the Jewish state insists on maintaining everything to suit itself in the final status talks which, from the look of things at present, have set back all Palestinian hopes.

No matter how the Israeli negotiators try to polish their plans for a redeployment in Hebron, it is clear that the basic objective is to ensure that nothing happens to the Jewish settlement in the centre of the town and that will continue to be a fait accompli in the final status talks to avert any Palestinian argument for full Palestinian control of the city.

It is against this background that the Palestinian position, which is supported by Jordan and the Arab World at large, should be seen. We all see clearly that the Israeli argument that the "security" of the 420 or so Jewish settlers living in Hebron should be ensured against a "hostile" Palestinian population of 120,000 is simply based on the desire to ensure that the settlers remain in the city and could be a strong factor to support whatever argument Israel wants to put up in the final status talks on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is against the realisation of this fact that Jordan has also affirmed its belief that the Middle East peace process would be in grave danger without an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, as the Jewish state agreed with the Palestinians last year. Needless to say, any change in any agreement that Israel has already reached with the Palestinians also bode ill for the future of other accords it has signed with other Arab parties. Jordan included. The most vivid factor in this respect for Jordan is the Israeli acknowledgement of the Hashemite's role in the Islamic holy places in Arab Jerusalem in the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty of October 1994.

Now, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,

obviously taken aback by the overall Arab and Muslim as well as international reaction to his unilateral moves in Arab Jerusalem, says he wants to maintain good relations with Jordan.

Of course, given Jordan's consistent moderate approach and anxiety not to pose hurdles in the path of the peace process, the Kingdom might accept Mr. Netanyahu's argument, but not before the Israeli prime minister shows his sincerity and good faith while dealing with the Palestinians.

**"What Mr. Netanyahu lacked was the vision of peace that Yitzhak Rabin had. It is not simply making peace, or more accurately, making gestures of making peace with the Arabs that matters. What matters is a vision of Arab-Israeli coexistence based on respect for the rights of each other. It is this vision that appears to be eluding Mr. Netanyahu."**

According to Israeli newspapers, Mr. Netanyahu was not only slightly upset but absolutely angry over Jordan's reaction and the tough comments made by His Majesty King Hussein at the Washington summit as well as subsequent media interviews.

The question here is: How did Mr. Netanyahu expect Jordan to react? Did he think that Jordan would simply keep quiet and try to intercede on his behalf to quell

Palestinian, Arab and Muslim anger over his whimsical actions in Arab East Jerusalem?

That is where the comments of the King were directed: what Mr. Netanyahu lacked was the vision of peace that Yitzhak Rabin had. It is not simply making peace, or more accurately, making gestures of making peace with the Arabs that matters. What matters is a vision of Arab-Israeli coexistence based on respect for the rights of each other. It is this vision that appears to be eluding Mr. Netanyahu.

All reports from the Taba talks also indicate that Mr. Netanyahu's representatives there, negotiating with the Palestinians, are continuing to pose serious hurdles in the name of security for the settlers in Hebron. Well, the long and short of it is simple: What are the settlers doing in Hebron in the first place? What is their right to be there? Aren't they any different from the Israeli soldiers patrolling other parts of the West Bank to ensure that the Israeli grip on the land is not loosened?

So, let us not kid ourselves, and let us not be taken in by any lame argument of security that Israel poses.

The Palestinians have to have full control over Hebron, as any part of the West Bank, and any interim arrangement for security for the settlers there should be negotiated in the good faith that the Palestinian National Authority is not out to murder those settlers. If anything, Israel should be thankful that the PNA is willing to negotiate something less than full control over Hebron at this point in time, with hopes that the final status talks could produce a solution to the presence of Jewish settlers in Palestinian lands. But if Israel continues to insist on having its own way in Hebron, or any other part of the West Bank, then it is clear that whatever agreement the Taba talks produce would not be worth the paper it is written on.

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# King's visit to Jericho — a real boost to Palestinians' hope for real peace

Reviewed by  
Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL press last week gave prominence to King Hussein's visit to Jericho, in a show of support for the Palestinian people, as well as the situation in the occupied Palestinian lands and domestic issues.

The King's visit to Jericho meant a lot to the Palestinians who are in need of support from their Arab kinsmen in the face of Israel's practices, said Sultan Hattab, a writer for Al Ra'i.

Stressing that Jordan has always been supportive of the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, the writer said that it goes without saying that the two peoples on the two sides of the River Jordan have a common future and common aspirations.

The Palestinians, who turned out in force to welcome the King, feel that their struggle for freedom is bound to be successful and that their twin brothers are doing all they can to achieve that goal, said the writer.

King Hussein has supporters in the Israeli peace camp too, according to the writer who said that the visit will enhance the Israeli peace groups' endeavours to help achieve a lasting peace.

Dwelling on the same topic, Mohammad Kawash, a writer for Al Dustour, said that it was in Jericho, in the wake of the 1948 war, that the Palestinian leaders gathered and met the late King Abdullah to forge unity between the two banks of the River Jordan.

It is in Jericho that King Hussein met last week with the Palestinian leadership and people in order to display Jordan's full support for their efforts to pursue a just and honourable peace, said the writer.

This visit bears a great significance and it is another move on the part of Jordan to open the road for peace, and also a show of support for the Palestinians who are negotiating a peace

agreement with Israel, added the writer.

At the same time, he said, the King's visit to Jericho served as a clear message to Israel that the Palestinians are not alone in the struggle for achieving peace and that Jordan is determined to back their endeavours.

By visiting Jericho, said the writer, the King aimed to stimulate the world community's efforts and give momentum to the peace process.

The 1994 Jordan-Israeli peace agreement provided for a special role for Jordan at the holy places of Jerusalem, according to a writer for Al Ra'i. At the beginning, it looked as though the Jordanians and the Palestinians will be in dispute over the right to administer the holy places in Jerusalem, but the two sides soon came to an agreement when Jordan announced that it would give up its role to the Palestinians once they have reached agreement with Israel over a final settlement, said Fahed Faneh.

The Israeli opening of the tunnel under the Aqsa Mosque compound, said the writer, has triggered a Jordanian-Israeli dispute because the move constituted a violation of the 1994 peace agreement and was an encroachment over Jordan's rights.

The writer demanded that Jordan be allowed to station a police force at the Haram Al Sharif compound, which encompasses the Aqsa and the holy shrines, so that it can be in a position to prevent further encroachments.

Taber Al Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour, commented on King Hussein's visit to Jericho by saying that the Palestinians and the Jordanians constitute one single family with a common past and with the same aspirations and future.

Demanding that Jordanians and Palestinians pool their efforts and work together to ensure the liberation of the Arab and the

holy places, the writer warned that if Israel succeeded in Judaizing Jerusalem, this special relationship could be in jeopardy.

The writer said that there will be no economic significance for the Sheikh Hussein bridge and the Aqaba-Eilat corridor if the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges, connecting the West Bank and Jordan, remain closed. The writer said that the Arab masses want to see the unique relationship between the two banks and two peoples translated into action on the ground and they want to see the two peoples forming a unity in deed, rather than word, in confronting any challenge to their common future.

In commenting on the U.S. role in the peace process, Mahmoud Rimawi, who writes for Al Ra'i, said that the United States, which is sponsoring the process, has failed to live up to the expectations and failed to pressure the aggressors into complying with the requirements of peace.

The U.S. administration realises and admits that Israel's intransigence is making it more difficult for the two sides to reach agreement and yet it is doing nothing in the face of Israel's practices that are obstructing peace, said the writer.

Referring to President Arafat's suggestion that U.S. forces be stationed in Hebron to protect the Jewish settlers in the city and police any future Israeli-Palestinian agreement, the writer said that the American administration should have welcomed the idea rather than reject it because it would have brought the negotiations to a happy end.

The writer urged the United States to shoulder its responsibilities and act in a manner that would speed up rather than delay a final settlement.

Mohammad Subeihi, a columnist for Al Dustour, said that the words of support for the Palestinians, as expressed by the Arab

and Muslim countries, should be translated into action.

What the Arab people of Palestine and Arab countries expect is a pan-Arab campaign to raise funds that would help them remain steadfast in their homeland and the Palestinian soil, said the writer.

The Arab city of Jerusalem is inhabited by 180,000 Jews and 150,000 Arabs, but soon the Jews will overwhelm the Arab population if the latter continue to face insurmountable difficulties that could force them to leave their homeland, warned the writer.

He said that the idea of collecting one dinar per year from every Arab citizen in the Arab World, as suggested by a recent seminar on Jerusalem, should be seriously considered because such a project is necessary to provide material support for the Palestinians and help protect the Arab identity of the holy city.

Taher Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour, discussed the grievances of the doctors and the nurses who are employed by the public sector and who are threatening to stage strikes to back demands for higher pay and better working conditions.

Should the doctors and the nurses go on strike by the end of this month, as they threaten to do, the health services in Jordan will be paralysed, warned the writer.

The doctors and the nurses have all the right to demand an allowance in view of the continuous rise in the cost of living, on the one hand, and the heavy work they undertake, on the other, said the writer.

One visit to Al Bashir Hospital, for instance, said the writer, can clearly reveal to the observer the heavy work imposed on these dedicated men and women. He said that doctors and nurses are entitled to get wages at least equal to those of their colleagues in the other semi-public and private hospitals.

## LETTERS

### All are equal under the law

To the Editor:

I THANK minister Hammad Abu Jamous and the Ministry of Social Development for their efforts, but take issue with their approach to provide equality and employment for our disabled fellow citizens. The private sector, and I would include myself among the people ready to help, should be able to assist in any way possible the noble cause of integrating the disabled into the general society. However, and in order to tackle the problem effectively, it is necessary to get to the roots of it.

In 1993, law number 12 for the Welfare of Disabled Persons was passed and ratified. The law is based on article number 31 of the Jordanian constitution, which states that "all Jordanians are equal," as well as on Arab-Islamic values, the National Charter, the principles governing education, the World Declaration on Human Rights, and the International Declaration on Disabled Persons.

Article 4 of the law places responsibility with the relevant ministries and governmental department to provide for the general welfare of disabled persons. The law, considered pioneering in the region, goes a long way in addressing the needs of the disabled, but falls short in several areas. It should not be named the law for the welfare of the disabled, but rather the "anti-discrimination law."

Disabled persons, according to the Jordanian constitution, are equal under the law, and therefore should be provided with the same services and privileges as the able bodied. A "favour" or a "special service" is not being provided: only what is legally and ethically required.

Certain parts of the legislation are in themselves discriminatory. Article 4f, for example, requires establishments with 25-50 workers to hire one disabled person, and firms with more than 50 employees to hire two disabled workers. This article is discriminatory both against a disabled as well as an able-bodied person. The reasoning is as follows: the basic constitutional premise is legal equality among all Jordanians. By putting a quota system, one is automatically discriminating. An employer may end up having to turn away an able-bodied applicant for a less qualified disabled person. Once the employer fulfills the quota, he has no incentive to hire more disabled employees.

The correct line is that a disabled person, applying for a job, must have an equal chance of getting that job as an able-bodied person. This means accessibility and suitable accommodation, which the law guarantees.

But the law is not being enforced in any way, shape or form. The Amman Municipality, for example, does not enforce the disabled access code when pertaining to commercial buildings and public spaces. When this issue was raised, we learned that the bylaws of the municipality allow a developer to bypass the code by paying a JD 200 fine.

The sad part is that according to architects and engineers, it does not cost much more to set up a building in accordance with the disabilities code. Why then, after so much effort, is this law not being implemented? We hope that the state will take the next logical step to amend the law and start enforcing it regularly.

Failing that, it is only a matter of time before legal action is taken against the government of Jordan by a disabled person, or one of the entities representing the disabled people. In theory, and according to the Jordanian constitution and law number 12, this case should be won by the plaintiff, and perhaps may set a precedent for the future.

Marwan Atalla,  
Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.





# U.N. urges aid boost to tackle growing poverty

GENEVA (AFP) — Nearly 50 people plunge into poverty every minute, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said, launching a crusade to help the needy and urging rich nations to boost their development budgets.

"Each minute in the world 47 people join the ranks of the poor families," UNDP administrator James Gustave Speth said, adding that the yearly toll was 25 million people.

One person in five — almost 1.3 billion in total — survive on \$1 a day, the extreme poverty threshold defined by the World Bank.

Another 60 per cent of the world's population is hardly better off, eking out a living on \$2 per day, according to the UNDP.

Against this backdrop, the U.N. agency is urging the international community to create new ways to cooperate, saying private and public sectors, business, debt management, investment and technology all have roles to play in fighting

poverty.

The agency is also calling on rich countries not to shrink international aid contributions, which have largely fallen victim to overall budget cuts.

"Any credible attack on world poverty must include a large increase in development cooperation — and some increase in development assistance — at its core," said Mr. Speth.

"Our world today needs more development assistance, not less, whatever the trend might be," he stressed.

Poverty has soared despite unprecedented growth in the world economy over the past 50 years, with the gap between rich and poor nations becoming ever starker, according to UNDP figures.

Between 1960 and 1991, the chasm between the poorest and richest fifths of the world doubled, with the average income of the latter now 61 times that of the former, the U.N. agency said.

The 50 poorest nations account for 20 per cent of the world's population but consume just two per cent of its income, while the richest 20 per cent absorb 83 per cent of its income.

However, poverty is not just a Third World phenomenon but is also spreading to industrialised nations.

Five million out of 100 million homeless people live in so-called wealthy countries, according to the UNDP, as do 35 million of the 120 million people who are without work.

"Poverty is no longer contained within national boundaries. It has become globalised," said Mahabul Haq, special adviser to the UNDP administrator.

The UNDP also highlighted the knock-on effects of destitution, such as drug trafficking, sickness, terrorism, war and environmental degradation.

"Growing poverty and joblessness, population pressures, environmental decay and the widening gap between the haves and have

nots will breed despair and instability," Mr. Speth warned.

"We cannot permit ourselves the luxury of confronting tomorrow the tragic consequences of our negligence today. It is better to land development today than troops tomorrow," he indicated.

There has been progress in certain areas, he noted however. Life expectancy in developing countries has risen 17 years to 63 in the past three decades and infant mortality rate has halved in the same period.

Global war on poverty needs political, financial will.

Further details provided by Reuters quoted the senior U.N. official as saying that the world has the resources and the skills to help 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty but lacks the political and financial will to do so.

Inaugurating the international year for the eradication of poverty, Mr. Speth said it was necessary

"to launch a global crusade to eliminate poverty."

"We have the resources, the know-how. We just need the momentum, the political support and the financial support to do it," said Mr. Speth.

He said that government aid had fallen 25 per cent in the last four years while private investment increased. But 80 per cent of such investment in developing nations was directed to 12 medium-income countries. "There is no correlation between direct foreign investment and real need," he added.

He noted that fast-growing economies like Malaysia once received aid.

"Behind the Asian miracle was a long period of development cooperation," he said.

In the United States, once the world's largest donor, foreign aid has dropped 40 per cent in real terms since 1985 and according to U.S. statistics, Washington provides less than 20 per cent of the world's foreign assistance.

According to U.N. documents one out of every five people in the world suffers from debilitating poverty, which means a lack of material resources as well as control over land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections.

The gap between rich and

poor is widening both within countries and between developed and developing nations. The income ratio between the richest 20 per cent and the poorest 20 per cent was 30:1 in 1960 it had increased to 61:1 by 1991.

The largest concentration of severely impoverished people live in southern Asia — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal.

And among industrial countries in western Europe and the United States, 15 per cent of the population live below national poverty lines.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, now travelling in Germany,

said in a statement that a concerted effort was required to integrate the least developed countries in the mainstream of the global economy.

"At the national level, policies to enhance overall competitiveness must be accompanied by targeted programmes and projects that combat social exclusion, expand social services and stimulate productive employment," he said.

"At all levels there is a pressing need to recognise that the poor can be key partners in the development process and that investments in people are the surest way to lasting development," he said.

## Paris Club waives \$4b in loans to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — The Paris Club has told Egypt that it agrees to write off about \$4 billion of debt, the third and last tranche of debt covered by an agreement dating back to 1991, diplomats and government newspapers said Thursday.

Paris Club Chairman Christian Noyer told Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri of the agreement in a letter which arrived Wednesday, the diplomats said.

The agreement to waive the last tranche had been conditional on IMF approval of the Egyptian government's economic reform programme and this finally came through last

Friday.

"We're very happy for Egypt. It's a demonstration of international support for the government's reform programme," said a diplomat from one of Egypt's large creditors.

The exact valuation of the tranche depends on the method of calculation — it is worth \$5.4 billion undiscounted, \$4 billion if discounted at six per cent a year or \$3.4 billion if discounted at 7.5 per cent a year, the IMF office in Cairo said.

It is on top of about \$6 billion waived in earlier stages of the 1991 agreement, which was in effect Egypt's reward for joining

the alliance against Iraq in the Gulf war.

Under the original timetable, the Paris Club could have waived the third tranche back in mid-1994 but the Egyptian government dragged its feet on key elements in an earlier IMF agreement, including privatisation and trade liberalisation.

Under Dr. Ganzouri's government, which took office in January, privatisation has exceeded IMF targets and earlier this month the government passed one of the last hurdles by cutting import tariffs by up to 25 per cent.

Finance Minister Mohamed Al Gharib said

last week that the debt waiver would save Egypt about one billion pounds (\$290 million) a year in debt servicing.

According to central bank figures, Egypt spent 5.868 billion pounds (\$1.73 billion) on debt service in the financial year 1995/96, which ended on June 30. Of this, 2.072 billion was to repay principal and 3.796 billion was in interest.

At the end of the year, Egypt's external debt stood at \$31.043 billion, against \$32.965 billion one year earlier.

The foreign debt peaked at about \$52 billion in 1988.

## Mideast set to profit from Asian gas surge

NICOSIA (AFP) — Middle East gas suppliers are likely to benefit from a massive increase in demand for natural gas from Asia in the next decade, experts have told a conference here recently.

Marie-Francoise Chebrelie, secretary general of French gas think-tank Cedigaz, said the "Asian

gas market will almost double by the year 2010."

She added that "there are considerable gas assets in the Middle East which are well located between Europe and Asia, and therefore close to the sources of demand. Location is vital as shipping distances are crucial to costs."

Ms. Chebrelie told the

annual Arab Press Service Middle East Oil Strategy conference in Nicosia that both Abu Dhabi and Qatar stood to benefit in the short-term, but that Iran's huge untapped supplies represented the best long-term bet.

She said the cost of transporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) by ship could be

reduced by up to 25 per cent within 20 years, further strengthening Middle East suppliers.

Claudio Simeoni, of Italian group ENI, said the market for natural gas was the largest expanding energy market in the world.

He said the market was currently increasing at 3.1 per cent per year, and that worldwide demand was likely to jump from 396 billion cubic metres in 1995 to 580 billion cubic metres in 2020. "In particular there will be a very steep increase in demand from Asia," he added.

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	SEK	NOK	FRF
US Dollar	1.5414	0.6289	1.2703	112.48	1.3485	1534.11	1.7292	5.2055	
DE Mark	0.6488	-	0.4077	0.8243	72.99	0.8745	994.95	1.1218	3.3770
GB Sterling	1.5902	1.5902	-	2.0201	178.87	2.1444	2439.54	2.7498	8.2778
CHF Franc	0.7872	121.29	0.4947	-	88.53	1.0611	1206.54	136.06	4.0862
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3698	0.5587	1.1289	-	1.1983	1.364	153.67	4.6259
CA Dollar	0.7416	1.1299	0.4675	0.9257	1.20	-	1125.29	1.2880	3.8263
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0037	0.4093	0.0827	1366.49	0.8781	-	11.26	3.3995
NL Guilder	0.5783	89.11	0.3634	73.45	85.00	0.7796	887.44	-	3.0095
FR Franc	0.1921	0.2960	0.1207	24.3937	21.58	0.2590	33.21	33.2100	-

Energy									
Oil	Last	Previous							
Brent	25.70	25.50							
W. Texas	25.55	25.35							
Bony	25.70	25.50							
Dubai	21.85	21.31							
UL Gas	231.00	228.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.4113	0.16771	0.33883	30.012				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4199	0.17123	0.34003	30.641				
KW Dinar	3.3344	5.14139	2.09888	4.23729	375.235				
BH Dinar	0.3769	4.09165	1.66661	3.37154	288.597				
CY Pound	2.1308	3.2644	1.3395	2.7058	239.672				

Metal Prices									
Metal	Bid	Offer							
Gold (oz's)	380	380.5							
Silver (oz's)	4.9	4.92							
Platinum (oz's)	383.8	384.8							
AL (3 Months)	1358	1360							
CU (3 Months)	1938	1943							
Zinc (3 Months)	1017	1020							
Lead (3 Months)	720	723							
NI (3 Months)	7051	7070							

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Chg	% Chg	High	Low	Pre Cls			
New York	DOW JONES	6058.82	-0.38	-0.01	6064.79	6040.19	6059.2		
Neynyrk	S&P 500	708.05	1.06	0.15	708.08	706.11	708.99		
London	FT-SE 100	4053.1	11	0.27	4061.4	4048	4042.1		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	21612.3	188.56	0.88	21788.8	21456	21423.7		
Paris	CAC 40	2165.23	19.9	0.92	2187.05	2172.75	2165.33		
Frankfurt	DAX	2734.82	18.56	0.68	2739.26	2728.64	2716.26		

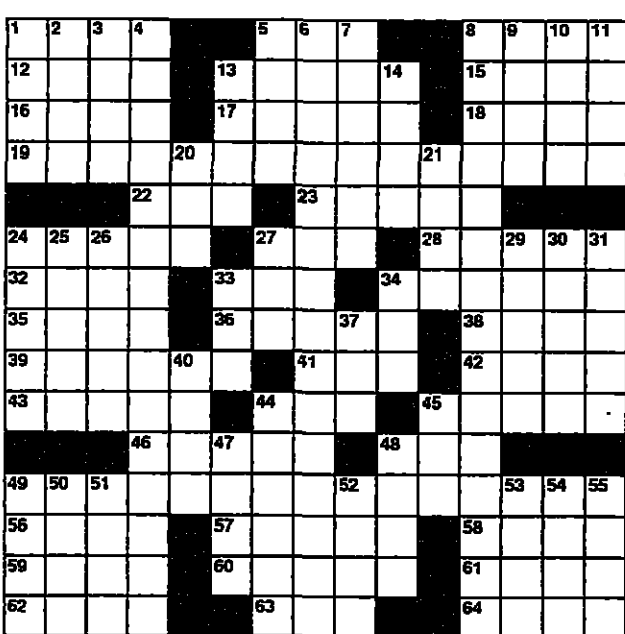
\* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1206	1.1262
DE Mark	0.4596	0.4619
CHF Franc	0.5674	0.5692
FR Franc	0.1358	0.1365
JP Yen	0.0313	0.0315
NL Guilder	0.4086	0.4116
IT Lira	0.46	0.4623

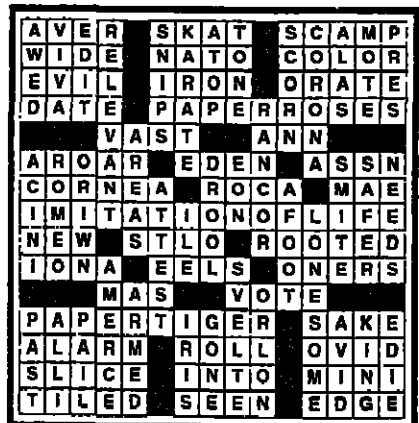
\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Certain school letters
  - Dashes of telegraphic code
  - Mets stadium
  - Salesperson
  - Leave out
  - Make, as salary
  - Aka "Ouida"
  - River to the Ubangi
  - Hard work
  - Margery of nursery rhymes
  - Place for a carnation
  - Assembly of voices
  - Soldiers
  - Minimal
  - Turner of films
  - Welcoming item
  - Splinter
  - Algerian port
  - Wonderland girl
  - Protuberance
  - Finicky
  - Table scrap
  - Excavates
  - Pancake topping
  - Bend in a timber
  - Yellow fever mosquito
  - In the limelight
  - Tree
  - Sunday feast?
  - French clergyman
  - See eye to eye
  - Little bit
  - Briton
  - Insurrectionist
  - Disney film
  - Baby blues
  - Train systems: abbr.
  - Pull with a jerk



by Mary E. Brindamour



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- DOWN
- Functions
  - George Bernard
  - Just enough
  - Evening events in Toronto (celebrated in song)

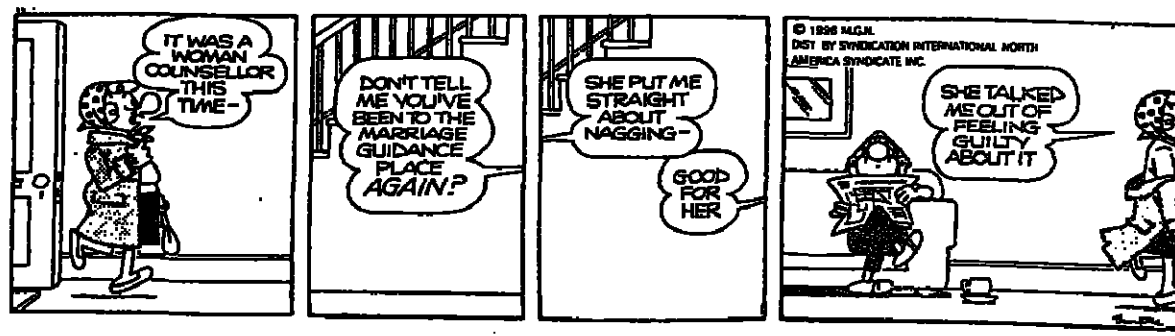
- Norway's patron saint
- Car crashing contest
- Action centers
- Accidental payment?
- USA word: abbr.
- Hawaiian port
- Sweller
- Boast
- Retain
- Paving compound
- Vend
- Hoof sounds
- One of Tom's friends?
- Walking (elated)
- Liquid measure: abbr.
- Stay clear of
- Grasslike plant
- Lock of hair
- The merry month

- Sound stage
- Weep
- Espy
- Folk singer
- Pete
- Baba
- Ski lift
- Biographer Leon
- Indy 500
- Toe the mark
- Proficient
- Professional charges
- Nick's mate
- English school
- Relative position

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 19, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have fine ideas of a personal nature and are enthusiastic and get much completed today. Try to act bravely in your activities.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Be with one you trust and make a new and better plan for the days ahead. Get right to work on this new course of action.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be with good friends who are dynamic today and have fine ideas which can help to make the days ahead brighter for you.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Handle civic and credit affairs wisely during the day-time today. Let bigwigs be more aware of your finest abilities for your success.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day for changes and making new associates since this brings real progress in your career activities. Plan a trip.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You can get your business affairs handled more wisely at this time so that you can have greater progress in the days ahead.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Improve conditions around you and stop feeling so indifferent with your environment. Make arrangements with fellow associates.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You can get much completed today because the air is full of enthusiasm so get busy early. Put your best ideas to work.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Study into the amusement which you particularly like today, one which you have not enjoyed of late for peak of mind.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Give more attention to your loved ones and show that family means a great deal to you. Invite guests in who can bring pleasure.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You are full of good ideas at this time and gain benefits very easily today. Handle communications very well for your success.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Put new ideas to work which can bring you fine benefits today so stop wasting time and get much accomplished. Entertain friends tonight.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline



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## Klinsmann on a roll as Bayern face Dortmund

PARIS (AFP) — Jürgen Klinsmann's good form augurs well for Bayern Munich's top-of-the-table clash against troubled Borussia Dortmund in the Bundesliga this weekend.

German coach Berti Vogts predicted Klinsmann, on target for Germany against Armenia recently, would score against Cologne last week — in fact Klinsmann hit two.

And Bayern's further trump card for Sunday's match in the Olympiastadion is their relaxed build-up, compared to Dortmund, who had to play Atletico Madrid in midweek in the European Champions League.

Holders Bayern are out of Europe after falling in the first round of the UEFA Cup to Valencia.

However the bad feeling between Dortmund coach Ottmar Hitzfeld and star sweeper Matthias Sammer has subsided.

The controversy was sparked off by Sammer who, in a television interview was asked if Hitzfeld could go the same way as sacked Schalke 04 coach Jörg Berger, replied: "You can never say never."

Hitzfeld was not amused, but said: "As a co-commentator, he had the perfect right to have an opinion. But I'm the coach and I pick the team. But, I repeat, he did not make those comments as a Dortmund player."

Sammer, Andreas Moeller, Steffen Freund, Karlheinz Riedle, Rene Schneider, Portugal's Paulo Sousa and Brazilian Julio Cesar are out of Sunday's game. But Dortmund's 1-0 win over Atletico despite the same absences was heartening for Hitzfeld.

Bayern have not lost in the league to Dortmund since the 1991/92 season but they also have absences. Thomas Helmer, Christian Ziege and Italian striker Ruggiero Rizzitelli are definitely out injured and both Markus Babel and Markus Muench are doubtful.

But the pressure is unquestionably on fourth-placed Dortmund, who are four points behind second-placed Munich after 10 matches.

Stuttgart, who remain on top despite being held 2-2 by Hansa Rostock, travel to third-placed Bayer Leverkusen in another top-

of-the-table meeting on Friday night.

Real Madrid, the 1995 champions, face the toughest task of the top five in the Spanish League this weekend when they host Real Sociedad on Saturday.

Madrid, who lie third two points behind leaders Barcelona, had to come back twice last weekend to salvage a 2-2 draw with Racing Santander while Real Sociedad, who are fifth and a point behind Real Madrid, comfortably beat pointless Extremadura 3-0.

Real Madrid have yet to lose under Italian coach Fabio Capello, former boss of AC Milan, and he will have been encouraged to see two of the summer signings Davor Suker of Croatia and Yugoslavian Predrag Mijatovic get on the score sheet last weekend.

Prior to that Real Madrid had relied mainly on teenage sensation Raul for their goals, he had notched four in six matches.

Sociedad, who won two successive championships in 1981-82, have been impressive thus far this season and their signing of Yugoslavian striker Darko Kovacevic for 2.2million pounds (\$3.5million) from Sheffield Wednesday has proved inspired.

He scored three goals in three games last month and has formed a good understanding with Romanian partner George Craioveanu, who scored a double last weekend.

Elsewhere Barcelona host midtable Logrones on Sunday, and the only hope for Logrones is that the league's leading scorer Ronaldo, scorer of seven goals, will have exhausted his goalscoring for the week after scoring a hat-trick for Brazil against Lithuania on Wednesday.

Second placed Deportivo La Coruna, flourishing under former Real Sociedad coach John Toshack, host Espanyol, who will do well to recover from the psychological blow of losing 3-0 at home to Feyenoord in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday.

Fourth placed Betis, who forced a 2-2 draw away at champions Atletico Madrid last Saturday despite being reduced to 10 men, host midtable Rayo Vallecano and should stay in the hunt in what at the moment is the most open championship race in years.

Invincible leaders Paris Saint Germain, unbeaten and no goals conceded at home, face second-placed

Auxerre in a crunch match on Sunday.

Auxerre warmed up with a 1-0 win over Grasshoppers Zurich in the midweek European Champions League, while Paris Saint Germain lost for the first time in any competition this season 4-2 to Galatasaray on Thursday in the European Cup Winners Cup second round, losing their grip on the trophy they won last season.

Both teams may be tired from their midweek trips and neither are at full strength. PSG's Alain Roche is suspended, as are Auxerre's Taribo West and Christian Henna.

Fourth-placed Bastia are without their Slovakian playmaker Lubomir Moravcik for Saturday's trip to Cannes — Moravcik, who fractured his shin against Monaco on Saturday in a clash with Emmanuel Petit, is out till mid-January.

Bastia coach Frederique Antonetti could give the playmaking role to Poland's Piotr Swierczewski, or entrust it to Pascal Camadini or Laurent Moracchini, who is fit after twisting his ankle at the weekend.

Third-placed Monaco host Nice on Saturday aware they have already conceded six points on their home ground and must try to stop the rot. And the signs are good as Nice have already lost four times away from home — including a 7-0 thrashing by the struggling 1995 champions Nantes.

Inter Milan face the first major hurdle in their race to the Italian title on Sunday, when Roy Hodgson's league leaders take on European champions Juventus in Turin.

Inter have not lost a match in any competition this season (Serie A, Italian Cup or UEFA Cup), but with so many new players they have often struggled to play good football.

Now they face a major rival for the championship, and could well be without England midfielder Paul Ince.

Ince has a two-match ban after being sent off last Saturday, in the wake of a racist taunt by a Piacenza defender. Inter have appealed, and although the ban could be lifted completely, Ince could also find himself suspended for just one match instead of two.

## Hagi provides Paris with masterclass

PARIS (AFP) — Romanian playmaker George Hagi inspired Turkish side Galatasaray to a 4-2 win in the first leg of their second round European Cup Winners Cup tie on Thursday over holders Paris Saint Germain — the French side's first defeat of the season.

In other ties Barcelona were given a fright by the 1991 European Cup Winners Red Star Belgrade but came through 3-1, while Norwegian side Brann Bergen beat Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven 2-1 at home and Liverpool came from behind to beat Sion 2-1 away.

Hagi, 31 and who won his 100th cap for Romania during Euro '96, created three of the goals. Hakan Sukur, the bull of the Bosphorus and the first Turk to play in the Italian Serie A, scored a double with Tugay and Hakan Unsal grabbing the others.

Paul Le Guen and Panamanian Julio Cesar Dely Valdes had briefly pulled Paris, who had only conceded three goals in fourteen matches up to this match this season, level.

It was Hagi who effectively sealed the tie in the 49th minute when he passed the

ball 40 yards into the penalty area and Unsal coolly flicked it past keeper Vincent Fernandez.

Red Star Belgrade, enjoying their second season back in Europe after sporting sanctions were lifted against Yugoslavia, took a shock lead in Barcelona in the 21st minute through striker Bratislav Zitkov.

Barcelona, three time winners of this competition, hit back with two goals in three minutes from 5million pound (\$7.5million) Brazilian striker Giovanni in the 34th and 36th minutes — one of them a header.

His contribution more than made up for the absence of his compatriot and leading scorer Ronaldo, away on international duty.

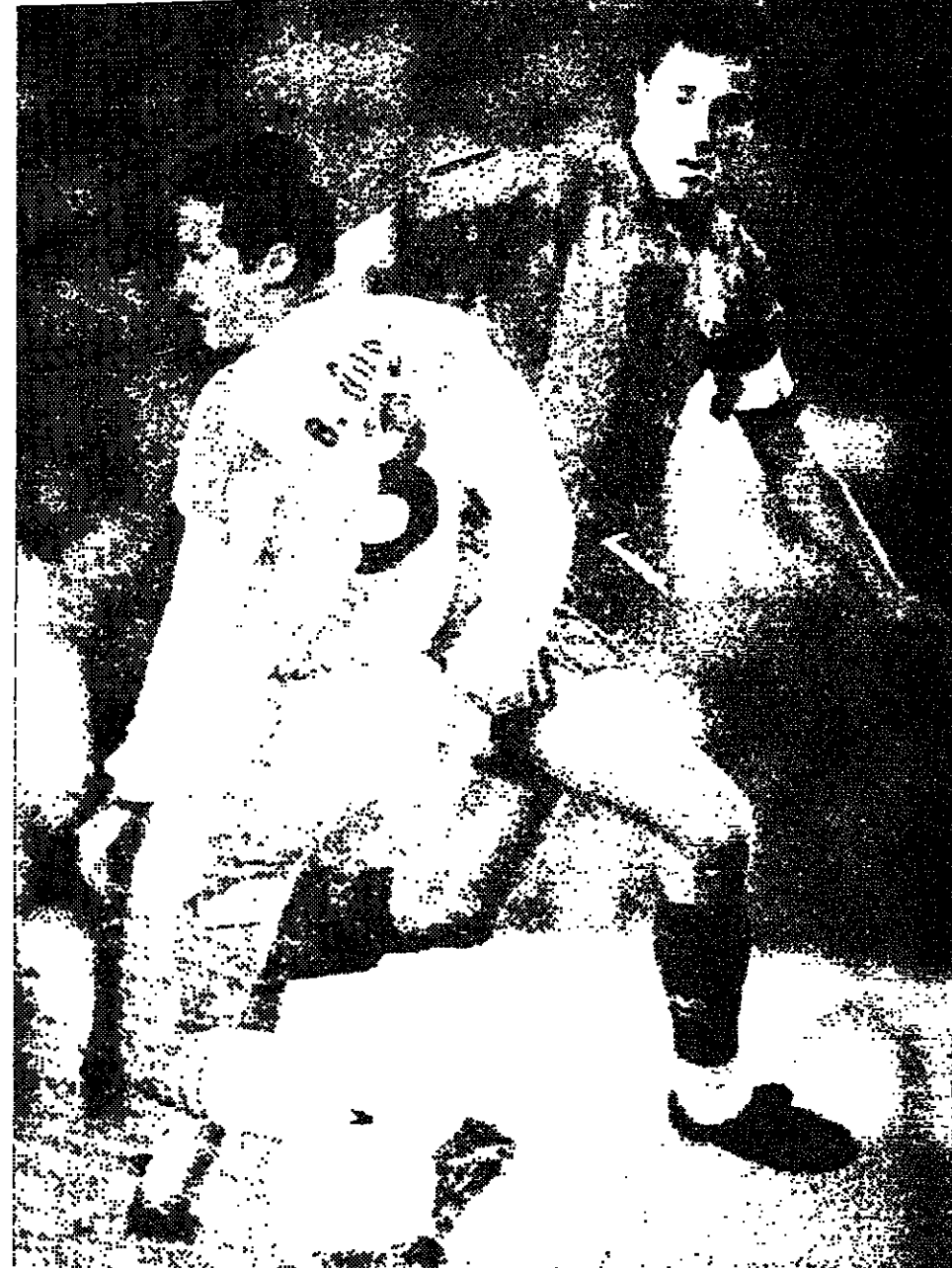
Portuguese playmaker Luis Figo scored a third in the 54th minute to give his side some breathing space for the return leg in a fortnight, although a missed penalty from Romanian sweeper Gica Popescu could prove costly.

They will be mindful that German side Kaiserslautern were crushed 4-0 in the last round in Belgrade.

Veteran John Barnes 60th minute header gave Liverpool a 2-1 away win against Sion — coming



Paris St. Germain goalie Vincent Fernandez kneels down looking behind the Galatasaray striker Hakan Uysal (rear) who scored the fourth goal, stretch his arms out to celebrate in the European Cup Winners' Cup second round first leg match in Istanbul. Galatasaray beat the European Cup Winners' Cup holders Paris St. Germain 4-2 (Reuters photo)



Barcelona's Romanian captain Gheorghe Popescu (R) battles for the ball with Red Star of Belgrade's defender Goran Djorovic during their second round first leg match in Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium. Barcelona won 2-1 (Reuters photo)

back from a goal down.

Liverpool, who would have won more convincingly but for heroics from keeper Stephen Lehmann, had equalised in the 24th minute through Robbie Fowler after Christian Bonvin had taken a shock 11th minute lead for Sion.

Barnes, the Jamaican born former English international wing, rose unopposed to head home Norwegian Stig Inge Bjornebye's corner to give the English FA Cup runners-up a real chance of extending their run in the competition, which is the only one they have not won in their illustrious history.

Norwegian side Brann Bergen produced a shock when they beat Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven 2-1, although they will be kicking themselves that they let PSV score a vital way goal in the 90th minute.

Philip Cocu, PSV's 26-year-old midfielder, scored what could be the all important goal after Mjeldal had scored a double, one from the penalty spot in the first half.

Fiorentina beat Sparta Prague 2-1 in the European

Cup Winners Cup but were kicking themselves after conceding a late goal.

Argentine skipper Gabriel Batistuta rocked the Czechs with a fine header after just seven minutes and Swedish midfielder Stefan Schwarz sealed victory early in the second half.

But Horst Siegel revived Czech hopes of reaching the quarter-finals with a strike in the dying minutes of the rain-swept second round tie.

Sparta now need only a 1-0 victory in a fortnight's time to reach the last eight on the away goals rule.

French Cup runners-up Nimes dream run in Europe looks set to end after they lost 3-1 at home to Swedish side Solna. Nimes, who put out Hungarian side Kispest Honved in the first round, were never on terms as Pascal Simpson opened the scoring after nine minutes pouncing on a rebound.

Pacha then finished well to make it 2-0 three minutes later after being set free by playmaker Thomas Lagerlof, Simpson having won the ball back in mid-field.

Stephan Johansson fin-

ished the match off in the 70th minute again with a rebound after Nimes Polish keeper Stanislas Karwat failed to hold the ball.

Marcel Fidan, playing his first competitive match for Nimes, gave them some consolation with a beautifully struck shot from outside the penalty box in the 88th minute.

Greek side AEK Athens, 11 times national champions and nine time Cup Winners, came through comfortable 2-0 winners away at Slovenian Cup winners Olimpija Ljubljana.

Hristos Kostis, 24-year-old Greek international striker, gave them a 14th minute lead and Georgian playmaker Temur Ketsbaia added a second in the 49th minute.

Russian side Lokomotiv Moscow will fancy their chances in a fortnight's time as they restricted Portuguese giants Benfica to an eighth minute goal from Joao Pinto.

Benfica will be bolstered by the return of the league's leading scorer Osmar Donizete, who was away on international duty with Brazil.

## Rally leaves Hong Kong for final time

HONG KONG (R) — For the final time on Saturday, the world's leading rally drivers will roar out of Hong Kong on the first stage of the week-long

Hong Kong-Beijing Rally.

From next year the last round of the Asia-Pacific championship will adhere to the new pattern of a

three-day event centred near Beijing.

The present 3,800-km event is an anachronism in a world where major rallies have cut distances

and now loop around a central point which makes them easier to package for television.

Millions of spectators will throng the roads of southern China, the biggest audience for any sporting event on the globe, giving massive exposure to the manufacturers and their sponsors who are hungry for a slice of the growing Chinese market.

The championship is finely balanced as

Subaru's Kenneth Eriksson and Mitsubishi's Ari Vatanen battle for the Asia-Pacific manufacturers' crown.

They head a field of 50 drivers who will traverse some of the rallying world's most varied terrain.

The rally is scheduled to reach Beijing on October 25.

**PHILADELPHIA**  
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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TANNIA HIRSCH

#### SAVE THAT TRUMP!

Neither vulnerable. West deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 1082  
♥ K J 8 6 2  
♦ 9 5  
♣ A K  
WEST  
♠ A Q 5  
♥ A K Q 6 4 3  
♦ 7 4 3  
SOUTH  
♠ A K Q 9 8 3  
♥ Void  
♦ J 10 7  
♣ 10 9 5 5

The bidding:  
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
1♣ 1♣ Pass 1♣  
2♣ 2♣ Pass 2♣  
3♣ 3♣ Pass 3♣

Opening lead: King of ♠  
To ruff when you know you are going to be overruffed is, more often than not, an exercise in masochism. Your cause might be better served if you looked for an alternative way to recover lost ground.

Since South's one-spade bid was not forcing, North needed a fair hand to raise to two spades. Since all of North's high cards had to be outside the spade suit, South was certainly worth another bid. The

jump to four spades was a little aggressive, but an invitational raise to three spades would have been too conservative for our blood. Fortunately, declarer had the technique to bring home the game.

West cashed the ace and king of diamonds, then continued with the queen. Since West was known to have six diamonds, it was more than likely the defender was short in spades. Should South ruff in dummy, East would surely overruff and return a trump, and declarer would eventually have to surrender a club for down one.

Instead, declarer elected to concede the third trick to West by discarding a heart from the table, and East was caught in a peculiar situation. A club discard would enable South to set up the suit with just one ruff, so East, too, discarded a heart.

That left declarer in control. The club shift was won on the table, the remaining high club was cashed and declarer came to hand with a trump. Leaving two trumps outstanding, declarer ruffed a club, returned to hand with a heart ruff and ruffed the remaining club as West discarded. A heart ruff was the entry to hand to draw the outstanding trumps and claim the rest of the tricks.

TODAY AT	<b>CINEMA TEL:634144</b> <b>PHILADELPHIA</b> <b>Emilio Estevez &amp; Dennis Leary ... in</b> <b>JUDGEMENT NIGHT</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CINEMA TEL:699238</b> <b>PLAZA</b> <b>The Arab Cinema Surprise</b> <b>Ahmad Zaki ...in</b> <b>NASER 56</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	<b>CINEMA TEL:677420</b> <b>CONCORD</b> <b>CONCORD "1"</b> <b>Demi Moore &amp; Gary Oldman ... in</b> <b>THE SCARLET LETTER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD "2"</b> <b>FRENCH KISS</b> at 6:30 p.m. <b>HEAT</b> at 3:30 & 8:45 p.m.	<b>Amoun Theatre &amp; Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275</b> Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: <b>Mahmoud Saimeh &amp; Hussein Tubishat</b> <b>Play starts 8:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</b> <b>PRESENTS</b> <b>THE SATIRICAL COMEDY</b> <b>Arab Human Rights</b> At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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## Faisali beat Wihdat 1-0 to top standings

### Fans turn violent outside stadium

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Friday upset titleholders Al Wihdat 1-0 in the last match of the first round in the Kingdom's Premier League soccer championship.

The win put Al Faisali on top of the ten-team standings with 19 points going into the second round of the event next month. Al Wihdat remained closely behind in second place with 18 points followed by Al Ahli and Al Hussein.

THE END OF the first round of the Kingdom's most prestigious soccer championship was marred by the unsportsmanlike conduct of fans of both teams who turned violent just after leaving Amman International Stadium throwing stones at each other, wrecking cars parked outside the Sports City, damaging property and causing many injuries. Riot police, however, calmed the situation and dispersed the troublemakers within an hour. Petra news agency reported that some hooligans were arrested.

Al Faisali's win enabled them to keep the only unbeaten record in the competition while the defeat was Al Wihdat's first of the competition.

Kutsum and Qogazi remained winless with only four and two points in their overall standings, a

point they have to work on in the second round if they are to move from the relegation zone.

Al Jazireh too appear below form and are eighth with only six points and just behind the relegation-threatened last two.

#### Standings following 1st round

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	9	5	3	1	14	5	19
Wihdat	9	5	3	1	14	5	18
Ahli	9	4	4	1	20	11	16
Hussein	9	4	4	1	13	8	16
Ramtha	9	4	3	2	11	7	15
Qadissieh	9	2	5	2	14	14	11
S. Al Hussein	9	2	4	3	10	12	10
Jazireh	9	1	3	5	4	10	6
Kutsum	9	1	4	5	5	19	4
Qogazi	9	0	2	7	6	21	2

## 'Nour Al Salam' wins horse endurance race

### Princess Zein finishes 4th, Sheikh Rashed 14th

By Aileen Bannayan and Mun'em Fakhoury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Musa Trabin riding Nour Al Salam Friday won first place in the Kingdom's biggest ever horse endurance race in which over 200 competitors rode 80-kilometres challenging the rugged Jordanian desert before reaching the finish line at Al Azraq.

Cargo from Ja'far Stud was nine minutes behind to clinch second place while Fairouzah also from the same stud took third place.

Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein riding Khamasin came in fourth.

Held under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashed Al Maktoum, the horse endurance race was sponsored by Emirates

Airlines who awarded two Nissan Patrol cars to the first place winners. Third place winner received JD 19,000, the fourth JD 17,000 and the fifth JD 15,200.

The winner was decided according to the jockey's weight, finishing time, and the total overall fitness of the horse following the tough race.

Competitors started the race from Mouaqqar and passed through the desert castles of Amra and Hararah on their way to Azraq resthouse.

Following the race, Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, president of the Jordanian Arabian Horse Society expressed her appreciation to all those who made this year's second horse endurance race a success.

"A special thanks goes out to Emirates Airlines for their generous sponsorship," said Princess Alia noting that the growing number of participants was a mark of success and popularity of the event.

She also thanked the two sons of Dubai's Crown Prince who took part in the event, especially Sheikh Rashed Ben Mohammad who continued the race despite persistent backache and managed to finish 14th.

## EUROPEAN BASKETBALL Olympiakos overwhelm Estudiantes 110-78

ATHENS (R) — Classy Olympiakos overwhelmed Estudiantes 110-78 in a Group B Euroleague basketball match Thursday.

Olympiakos dominated throughout the match with an impressive show of force inside the D and some lethal accuracy.

Six players from the Greek side reached double figures as the Spaniards virtually threw in the towel midway through the second half.

Teenager Dimitris Papanikolaou, who last week earned Olympiakos a thrilling one-point win over Cibona, was in explosive form with 19 points. Veteran pivot Panayotis Fasoulas had no match under the boards with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

NBA recruit Willy Anderson added another 16 points to delight the 8,000 Olympiakos fans at the Athens Peace and Friendship Stadium.

American guard Harper Williams notched 22 points for Estudiantes but was the only fire-power for the nervous visitors who made frequent mistakes with their paper-thin defence.

With four wins from their first five games, Olympiakos are once again among the favourites for this season's crown along with titleholders and big rivals Panathinaikos.

## Chiefs beat Seahawks

KANSAS CITY (R) — Marcus Allen scored two touchdowns and Pete Stoyanovich had a pair of field goals as the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Seattle Seahawks, 34-16 in an AFC Western Division matchup Thursday.

Allen scored the 108th and 109th rushing touchdowns of his career. He has six this season, tying Miami's Karim Abdul-Jabbar for the AFC lead. Allen missed most of the second half with a bruised right hip.

Kansas City's Steve Bono completed 17-of-26 passes for 194 yards and a touchdown.

Third-year wide receiver Chris Penn had one of his best games as a pro with five receptions for 69 yards. Penn, who had just four catches in his career entering 1996, leads the team with 25 receptions.

The Chiefs (5-2) took a 3-0 lead on their first possession when Bono moved them 51 yards in nine plays, culminating with a 45-yard field goal by Stoyanovich. Bono found Penn for a 16-yard completion just before the kick.

Kimble Anders' 15-yard scoring run with 3:41 left in the quarter pushed the advantage to 10-0.

Allen's first score of the game came with 3:47 left in the half and extended the Chiefs lead to 17-0. The 13-play, 81-yard drive chewed up more than eight minutes and featured a pair of offside penalties by the Seahawks, each in 3rd-and-short situations.

The Seahawks (2-5) finally got on the board with 26 seconds left in the half when John Friesz directed a 14-play drive that was capped by Todd Peterson's 24-yard field goal.

The Seahawks capitalised on a Greg Hill fumble early in the third quarter to halve the deficit.

Allen cashed in another touchdown, again from one yard out. Bono directed an 11-play drive that saw Allen convert a key 3rd-and-1.



Atlanta Braves Andrew Jones jumps into the celebration after the Braves defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 15-0 to win the National League Championship. The Braves meet the New York Yankees in the World Series (Reuters photo)

## Rested Yankee hurlers ready for weary rivals

NEW YORK (AFP) — There is no time to rest for Atlanta after winning a seven-game showdown for the National League title.

Now it is on to New York and a World Series matchup against the well-rested Yankees in a best-of-seven series that begins here Saturday. New York players have relaxed since winning the American League crown Sunday.

"It was important for us to win fast to get as much rest as possible," said John Wetteland, New York's \$4 million a year relief pitcher. "We have a calmness, a feeling that we are going to get our chance to win."

New York returns to the series for the first time in 15 years, seeking a 23rd title in 34 appearances but their first series crown since 1978.

Atlanta reached the World Series three of the past four years but won their first

crown in 1995.

The Yankees have met the Braves twice in the World Series, losing in seven games in 1957 before winning in seven games the following year. The Braves were then based in Milwaukee.

New York's acclaimed starting pitchers are well rested. Right-handed David Cone plus lefties Andy Pettitte, Jimmy Key and Kenny Rogers will have at least a week off each and Wetteland was the only reliever used Sunday.

"We feel like the only way we can lose is if our starting pitching gets blown out and with our pitching staff, that rarely happens," Yankee first baseman Tino Martinez said.

Cone was sidelined most of the year with an

anecuryism in his pitching arm, but recovered his form last month to finish 7-2 with a 2.88 earned-run average.

"It has been said 100 times, but good pitching beats good hitting," Yankee manager Joe Torre said. "The pitching has been a little better on our side."

Relief pitchers, primarily Wetteland and Mariano Rivera, have been vital to the Yankees.

"Getting to the series is a step every team wants to take, but this team has higher aspirations," Rogers said. "Everyone does their part. I know if I pitch six innings, with the bullpen we have, I have done my job."

Rivera, who averages more than a strikeout an inning, specialises in relief efforts in the seventh and eighth

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## The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Water & Irrigation Jordan Valley Authority

### Invitation of Tender - No. 11/96 For The Water Management Information System

1. The Jordan Valley Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW) for the upgrading of the water management information system (WMIS) and the full automation of the King Abdullah Canal.
2. The Jordan Valley Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and installation of computers, and the migration and operation of the (WMIS) software.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Jordan Valley Authority.

P.O. Box : 2269  
Telephone : 962-6-689400  
Fax : 962-6-689916

4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder from the Tenders Directorate of JVA against a payment of a non-refundable fee of JD100.
5. Time Schedule:

- Purchase of Tender documents start as of Thursday morning Oct. 17, 1996 until 3 O'clock p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1996.
- Site visit will be made on Wednesday Oct. 30, 1996.
- Tenders accompanied by a bid security of JD equivalent to 5 per cent of the Bid Price should be submitted to the secretary of Tenders Committee of the JVA not later than 12 noon local time Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1996 at the first floor of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation/Shemesani.

Secretary General  
Jordan Valley Authority  
Dr. Dureid Mahasneh

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

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## Government, engineers sign compromise accord

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government responded to the requests of the Jordan Engineers Association (JEA) and signed late on Friday an agreement calling for a raise in the public sector engineers' basic salary.

Ministers of Housing and Public Works Abdel Hadi Majali and Administrative Development Kamel Nasser and JEA Vice-President Hosni Abu Ghida expressed satisfaction over the eight-point agreement, reached after a busy weekend of hectic consultations in which took part various ministers, including Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Together with an unspecified raise in the engineers' basic salary, the agreement stipulates that engineers will advance to higher levels of the public sector employees scale and that all engineers working on a daily basis will be granted a contract.

The last point of the agreement calls for the establishment of a committee which will include representatives from the JEA and is supposed to submit amendments to the current by-laws regulating the engineers' wage within the next three months.

"Representatives from the JEA will be included in the committee in charge of discussing the amendments to the current by-laws regulating the allowances for the (public sector) engineers," Mr. Majali told the Jordan

Times, adding that "both (the JEA and the government) should work together."

After the agreement was signed, the JEA called off a sit-in which was supposed to be staged Saturday in front of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

As no figures whatsoever are mentioned in the text of the agreement and the quantity of the raise in the basic salary is not specified, some engineers told the Jordan Times that "what was signed (Friday) was a declaration of intent, rather than a real agreement."

Some members of the JEA, who asked not to be identified, also complained that the agreement does not introduce any real immediate measure, but "it just delegates to the envisaged committee every decision about the new regulations to be proposed."

According to a communiqué released last week, the JEA, 36,000-member strong, was asking for a 180 per cent increase in the public sector engineers' monthly wage, currently nearing JD215.

The communiqué also said that the JEA was asking for an advancement of new graduate engineers from the sixth to the fifth grade of the public sector employees scale, which runs from tenth (the lowest) to first (the highest) grade.

Referring to the lack of figures in the agreement, Mr. Abu Ghida commented that "this (the specific amount of

the raise in engineers' wage) is not the point," and said that "what matters is the serious interest in solving the problem showed by the government."

He said after the JEA last week called for a sit-in and threatened to later organise a strike, the government promptly started negotiations to find a compromise.

"The prime minister was constantly informed of all developments (in the government-JEA negotiations) and acted as a mediator," Mr. Abu Ghida said, expressing satisfaction over the government's response to the requests advanced by the JEA.

"After the escalation (in the JEA strategy), we (the JEA and the government) condensed our meetings in the last three days and sorted out our differences," Mr. Majali said.

Declaring "high respect for the JEA, which we (the government) considered a national institution, aiming at protecting the interests of its members," the minister also said that "dialogue with the JEA started months ago, but was interrupted, due to some misunderstanding."

Mr. Abu Ghida told the Jordan Times that the number and the composition of the JEA-government joint committee in charge of proposing the new regulations related to the public sector engineers allowances will be announced "in the next couple of weeks."



KURDISH RIVALRY: Iraqi Kurdish fighters loyal to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) ride atop a truck through the northern Iraqi town of Koy Sanjaq on Thursday. Fighters of the Baghdad-backed Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) were reportedly advancing on the town on Friday (see page one) (Reuters photo)

## U.N. accuses Croats of hindering cooperation in Mostar

MOSTAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — Croats are hindering all efforts at cooperation with the Muslims, their allies in the Muslim-Croat federation, an official with the U.N. refugee agency charged Friday.

"There is full obstruction from the Croat side. They're showing everything except political interest and will," UNHCR official Ariane Quentier told AFP here.

Ms. Quentier said there had been slow progress on attempts to return refugees to their homes.

She was speaking as a U.N. police spokesman in Sarajevo reported that a mob of Croat women had stopped and then stoned a bus "carrying Muslims returning from a visit to their former homes in a Croat-held area of Bosnia."

The bus was making a return trip from Capljina, a town where many Muslims were expelled by Bosnian Croats in 1993, U.N. police spokesman Patrick Svensson said.

Troops from the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) "responded to the scene and fired about five shots to disperse the crowd," he added.

The incident is the latest in a series involving the Croat authorities who appeared to have hardened their line on the return of Muslims and Serbs to areas under their control.

## Lebanon committee says Israel responsible for civilian injuries

BEIRUT (AFP) — The five-nation committee monitoring a truce accord in South Lebanon ruled Friday that Israeli troops were responsible for injuring 13 civilians by shelling a Lebanese village, but stopped short of condemning the Jewish state.

"The Israeli forces are responsible for the manner in which they carried out, against a Lebanese armed group, counterfire which resulted in the damage and injuries in Safad Al Battikh," a statement by the committee said.

The committee — comprising representatives from France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the United States — urged that "appropriate measures be taken by responsible authorities to ensure that such tragedies will not be repeated."

"The monitoring group deplored the injuries caused to the Lebanese civilians in the village," it added.

Under an April 26 accord which ended a 17-day Israel assault operation against Hizbollah guerrillas in South Lebanon, the two sides pledged to spare civilians and not to use local residents as human shields by mounting operations from inhabited areas.

Lebanon had filed a complaint against Israel's shelling of Safad Al Battikh on Oct. 11, in which 13 civilians were wounded, four of them seriously.

Meanwhile two militiamen in the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were killed and two wounded Friday in a bombing in southern Lebanon claimed by Hizbollah, SLA radio said.

Israeli military sources

said the two SLA militiamen were killed by a booby-trap in the "security zone" occupied by in southern Lebanon.

The SLA radio, Voice of the South, said the device blew up a passing vehicle on the Jarmak road in the centre of the "security zone," killing two fighters in the Israeli-armed Lebanese militia and wounding two others.

In a statement released in Beirut, the Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the attack against what it described as an "SLA troop transport."

Lebanese police said meanwhile that Israeli and SLA artillery shelled the Iqlim Al Tufah region and the outskirts of the village of Arab Salim, without causing any casualties. Israeli helicopters also opened fire on suspected Hizbollah positions in the area, police said.

The violence came as the international ceasefire monitoring committee wrapped up a meeting early Friday in the town of Naqoura on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

The five-nation committee has been investigating the attack on Safad Al Battikh since Monday.

Israel initially justified the shelling by saying Hizbollah had violated the truce by firing mortars from inside a civilian area. But it later acknowledged that the source of fire was "from the edges" of a village.

Four houses were also damaged along with the village's power grid, telephone lines and water distribution network.

The committee met three times in the town of Naqoura to study the complaint, and investigated on the ground in

Safad Al Battikh and at Israeli positions from where the shells were fired.

The final statement said: "In light of the findings of the verification missions, the monitoring group confirmed that the injuries and destruction were caused by Israeli artillery fire."

"The monitoring group affirmed by unanimity that all combatants are responsible for the conduct of their military operations and that special prudence is required for such activity in the vicinity of civilian populated areas," it added.

However, it said the Israeli representative on the committee "expressed sorrow for the injuries and damage, but maintained they were an unintended result of defensive counterfire" following an attack by Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas.

The representative said Israel had "responded in a proportionate and restrained manner."

The Lebanese and Syrian delegates, however, held that the shelling was deliberate and voiced concern that the Israeli artillery action was aimed at raising tension to prepare the ground for a wider military operation.

The Israeli representative denied such intentions.

A Lebanese official expressed "relief" at the committee's decision.

He said the Lebanese and Syrian members had called for a condemnation of the Israeli action, but the move was resisted by the Israeli side which insisted the committee was not a court and could not apportion blame.

## Settlers protest any troop withdrawal from Hebron

HEBRON (AP) — Dozens of Jewish settler women and children blocked the entrance to Israel's military headquarters Friday to protest any troop pullout from this West Bank city.

The demonstration came as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators attempted to bridge disagreements over how to ensure the settlers' security and allow Israel to withdraw the bulk of its troops out of Hebron.

The some 100 women and children outside the army headquarters in Hebron called on the government to keep Israeli troops in the last West Bank city to remain under Israel's control.

"The redeployment will put the Jewish people in danger, not only the 400 Jews in Hebron, but also those in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and everywhere," said Nadia Matar, a Jewish settler.

"We demand from Benjamin Netanyahu that he keep his promises and not redeploy from

Hebron," she added.

The demonstration was the second in two days by settlers, indicating the political fallout Mr. Netanyahu will face from political hardliners once he goes ahead with the Hebron redeployment.

On Thursday dozens of Jewish settlers began fencing in a plot of land near Hebron to mark the land as their property before the Israeli army pulled out.

Moshe Peled, deputy education minister and a member of the right-wing Tsomet Party, said that if Mr. Netanyahu redeployed troops out of Hebron he would recommend that Tsomet break its coalition with the prime minister's Likud Party. The two parties ran on a joint ticket in the May elections.

Israeli police late Thursday pulled down a fence that Jewish settlers had begun erecting around an Arab-owned hilltop near Hebron, Palestinians said.

Landowners filed a com-

plaint with a joint liaison office against about 30 Jews from neighbouring Kiryat Arba settlement, most of them teenage students, who had laid claim to a land plot adjacent to their enclave.

Police officials were not immediately available for comment.

The settlers hammered spikes around the sparsely planted hilltop and began extending barbed wires, sparking a row with Palestinian landowners, witnesses said. Police separated the two sides and ordered settlers to halt the work.

"This is our homeland which we inherited from father to son. We have certificates to prove that this land belongs to us," said Ali Jaber, a 32-year-old landowner.

The accord required Israel to hand over most of Hebron to Palestinian police. The deployment was delayed by Islamic suicide bombings in Israel in February and March.

## Unlikely scenario of military coup causes stir in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — One of Israel's most respected defence experts has caused a ripple of unease in the Jewish state by saying the country's military leaders are so unhappy with government policy that they could stage a coup.

Zeev Maoz's doomsday prediction in a report published this week drew scorn and indignation from the military top brass and leaders across the political spectrum.

General Amnon Shahak, the army's chief-of-staff, dismissed the report by the director of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies as "light-hearted musings aimed solely at filling newspaper columns."

Uzi Landau, a deputy in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party and president of the parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, was even more scathing.

"A military coup! For anybody who knows any-

thing about the Israeli army the hypothesis is quite frankly ridiculous," Mr. Landau told AFP.

Even Mr. Landau's Labour predecessor, Uri Orr, refused to entertain Mr. Maoz's analysis. "It is not serious. Not only is the army command extremely committed to democratic rules, but there is no military force capable of undertaking such an operation," said Mr. Orr, pointing out that two-thirds of the Israeli army is made up of reservists.

But despite the barrage of denials and outright rubbishing of his theory, Mr. Maoz insists the report is more than scare-mongering.

"The crisis of confidence between the army and Mr. Netanyahu is so bad that one cannot dismiss out of hand a coup, although such a possibility remains highly unlikely," he said.

He pointed to the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

last year, and the massive shock inflicted on the Israeli psyche by the discovery that the killer was a Jew.

"If you had asked me a year ago if it was possible that a prime minister could be assassinated by a military reservist, I would never have thought it possible. Today, there is nothing I will not rule out," said Mr. Maoz.

He said the coup theory had been made more of a possibility by the unprecedented powers put in the hands of Mr. Netanyahu, who in May became Israel's first-ever directly elected prime minister.

"Army intervention does not have to take the form of a coup. It would be easy for them to issue an ultimatum as they did before the war of June 1967, although it would take a different form this time," he said.

Israeli generals in 1967 put very strong pressure on the prime minister of the

day, Levy Eshkol, to launch a pre-emptive strike against Egypt.

Mr. Maoz's warning has followed reports of extremely tense relations between Mr. Netanyahu and the military top brass over his hardline policies towards both the Palestinians and the Syrians.

A group of 30 soldiers wrote a joint letter to the prime minister last week complaining that his policies were leading Israel towards an "unjustifiable war." Newspaper reports have also said that Mr. Netanyahu believes army chiefs are too closely aligned to the policies of the previous Labour government, and has deliberately frozen the military out of the decision-making process.

The magnitude of the crisis is not disputed by other experts and political commentators.

"In effect, it is Netanyahu who has carried out a

putsch against the army as he no longer canvasses its views," Amir Oren, military expert for the Haaretz newspaper, told AFP.

He underlined Mr. Netanyahu's decision to open a highly controversial new entrance to a tunnel close to Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque last month without consulting the military leadership.

The tunnel opening triggered an eruption of Palestinian anger which led to gunbattles between Israeli forces and Palestinian police which left over 80 dead, including 15 Israeli soldiers.

Mr. Oren said that, in addition, the generals fear a "possible cut in the army's budget at a time when the government's policies have increased the risks of war."

He added that the military's concern over budget cuts is shared by Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai — a former general.

## Israel is happy with Chirac decision over Orient House

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel said Friday it welcomed French President Jacques Chirac's decision not to send his foreign minister to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) unofficial headquarters in East Jerusalem when he visits next week.

Mr. Chirac's spokeswoman, Catherine Colonna, said Thursday that the president decided not to take Herve De Charette to Israel with him in protest at Israeli opposition to a visit by the foreign minister to the Orient House.

But Israel chose not to see Mr. Chirac's decision as a snub, instead saying it was "satisfied" Mr. De Charette would not be going to the Orient House.

"We have reminded our French partners over recent days of our position on this subject and we are satisfied," said Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Danny Shek.

"Israel is opposed to any political or diplomatic activity by the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem," Mr. Shek said.

Israel has banned such activity in East Jerusalem which it captured and annexed in 1967 and has steadfastly opposed diplomatic visits by foreign dignitaries to the Orient House.

The Jewish state has declared Jerusalem its "eternal and undivided capital," a move recognised by few countries.

The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as their own future capital.

Mr. De Charette, who is accompanying Mr. Chirac on the rest of his Middle East tour, will visit Egypt instead when the president goes to Israel on Monday.

French Secretary of State for Health Herve Gaymard will instead visit the Orient House.

## COLUMBIA

Queen to arrange royal family trips to save money

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II wants to take over managing travel expenses for members of the royal family in order to save taxpayers' money, Buckingham Palace announced Thursday. The proposal, backed by the Conservative government and the Labour opposition, is expected to mean that the royal train and the queen's flight of aircraft will be used less, the palace said. If parliament approves the new arrangement, Buckingham Palace will take over responsibility next April for deciding how the annual allowance for royal travel will be spent. A detailed report on the costs of royal trips is published every year. At present, the royal family's travel allowance comes to £9 million (\$14 million) a year, most of which comes from the Ministry of Defence. The new arrangements do not include the upkeep of the royal yacht Britannia which the government has decided will be "retired" in 1997 in order to save taxpayers £17 million (\$27.2 million) in refurbishing costs. Palace sources said the decision was taken in September at the six-monthly "summit" of leading members of the royal family at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. Twice a year, the queen, her husband Prince Philip, their four children and senior royal advisers meet to discuss the future of the monarchy.

Clinton makes gaffe on U.S. constitution

SANTA ANA (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton mixed up his history Thursday, quoting a famous line in President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address but crediting it to the U.S. constitution and the Declaration of Independence. "Our friends on the other side, they complain about government all the time," Mr. Clinton said of Republicans during an outdoor rally. "They set it up as the enemy, it's government versus the people. The last time I checked, the constitution said, 'of the people, by the people and for the people.' That's what the Declaration of Independence says," Mr. Clinton declared. Actually, the famous words were uttered by Lincoln in his famous speech dedicating the national cemetery at the civil war battlegrounds in Pennsylvania. Republican Bob Dole's campaign issued a statement calling Mr. Clinton's comments "a presidential gaffe of historic proportions."

Wright brothers number plates create turbulence

CHARLOTTE (R) — The legacy of pioneer aviat the Wright brothers has hit a spot of turbulence. The dispute between North Carolina, where Wilbur and Orville Wright made the first airplane flight in 1903, and Ohio, where they were born, has reached ground-level — car bumpers to be exact. North Carolina has for years decorated its vehicle number plates with the slogan: "First in flight." Now Ohio plans to climb on board by introducing a vehicle tag saying "Birthplace of aviation." The Virginian-Pilot newspaper said state legislators, civic activists and media commentators have joined the dogfight, saying the Ohio slogan is inaccurate. A meeting of the first flight centennial commission, Kill Devil Hills, N. Carolina, brought together people from both sides and they agreed there was room for both slogans, the newspaper said.